

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN MEMORY OF COLONEL AUSTIN
CAPPS SR.

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2007

Mr. ROSS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of my dear friend Colonel Austin Capps Sr. of Gurdon, Arkansas, who passed away April 14, 2007.

Colonel Capps was a leader and an inspiration to many throughout his years of service to his community and to the state of Arkansas. His dedicated commitment to making his beloved town of Gurdon and his state a better place to live was evident in everything he did.

Colonel Capps was a lifelong resident of Clark County and graduate of Ouachita Baptist University. Upon graduation, he was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the U.S. Army where he served during World War II in North Africa, Italy, and France. After the war, he returned to Gurdon where he continued serving his country by enlisting with the U.S. Army Reserves.

Colonel Capps' diligence to duty and service to those around him carried over into his business, Austin's Appliance and Furniture, which he operated in Gurdon for over 70 years. Due to his decades of hard work and commitment to improving the lives of Gurdon residents, I often thought of him as "Mr. Gurdon."

Colonel Capps was a devoted, lifelong member of the First Presbyterian Church of Gurdon where he served as an elder, Sunday School teacher, and member of the choir. He was a man of strong faith that was evident in all he did. He also served as member of the Board of Trustees of Baptist Hospital in Arkadelphia and as a faithful Gideon.

I send my deepest condolences to his two sons Colonel James Capps, Jr. of Hot Springs, AR, and William Roy Capps, of Gurdon, AR, to his two sisters Louise Mann of Houston, TX, and Alyene Fowler of Ft. Scott, KS; and to his seven grandchildren and 19 great grandchildren who affectionately called him "Big Daddy."

Colonel Capps will be missed by his family, his church, his community, and all those who knew him and called him a friend. I will continue to keep his family in my thoughts and prayers.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO MILTON I.
SCHWARTZ

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor my friend Milton I. Schwartz for his generosity and humanitarian efforts on behalf of the entire Las Vegas community.

Milton Schwartz was born and raised in Brooklyn, NY. After attending New York Uni-

versity and the Wharton School of Finance, Milton enlisted in the U.S. Army, serving with the Army Signal Corp during World War II. Following his military career, Milton moved to Nevada and became a successful businessman. He was the owner of Checker Cab Company, Vice President of Yellow Cab and Star Cab companies, and owner and operator of Valley Hospital where he served as the chairman of Formula 409. Aside from his contributions to the growth in southern Nevada, Milton has played a large part in the local Jewish community. In 1988, he established the Milton I. Schwartz Hebrew Academy, a Judaic elementary school serving preschool to eighth grade.

As a result of his pursuits, Milton has received a number of accolades, most notably being honored as Republican of the Year by the State of Nevada Republican Men's Club and as Humanitarian of the Year by Goodwill Industries. On May 6, 2007, Milton will be honored with the Dr. Miriam and Sheldon G. Adelson in Pursuit of Excellence Award at a gala in his honor.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor my friend Milton I. Schwartz. His commitment to the Las Vegas community is truly commendable for he has enriched countless lives. I applaud him for his success and wish him the best in future endeavors.

HONORING THE 2007 ST. PAUL CENTRAL
HIGH SCHOOL MINUTEMEN
GIRLS BASKETBALL CHAMPIONS

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2007

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the 2007 St. Paul Central High School Minutemen Girls Basketball Class AAAA State champions. The Minutemen won a convincing 81-63 victory over the Minneapolis South Tigers to capture the championship title on March 17, 2007. I extend heartfelt congratulations to the Minutemen champions and the entire Central High School.

As the result of their hard work, outstanding athletic ability, power and speed, the team achieved success throughout their season as well as their championship game. With 32 wins and 0 losses, the 2007 St. Paul Central Minutemen Girls Basketball champions have the best winning record of any girls basketball team in Minnesota history. In achieving its victory in the Class AAAA championship game, the team's 81 points set a new score record, surpassing the previous high score of 80 points. The Minutemen Girls team victory earns them a place in St. Paul Central Girls Basketball history alongside the 1976 and 1979 St. Paul Central Girls State Championship teams. I am proud of the positive example set by these fine young student athletes.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the students, faculty and staff of St. Paul Central High

School, please join me in honoring the St. Paul Central Minutemen Girls Basketball State champions.

A TRIBUTE TO LA SALLE HIGH
SCHOOL

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2007

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay special recognition to La Salle High School as it celebrates its 50th anniversary.

La Salle High School was created in 1956 at the request of the archbishop of Los Angeles, who wanted a Catholic boys high school to serve the northern and eastern sections of the San Gabriel Valley. The school was created to fulfill the mission of its founder, Saint John Baptist de La Salle, "to give a human and Christian education to the young, especially the poor, according to the ministry which the Church has entrusted to the Christian Brothers." La Salle High School opened its doors in September of 1956 to 117 ninth grade students from 14 nearby communities.

Throughout its 50-year service, the growing La Salle High School has been committed to an ethnically diverse student body. Minorities now account for 45 percent of the student body, providing students with a culturally rich learning environment, and in 1989 the decision was made to begin enrolling women. In 1991, the first coeducational classes were offered at La Salle High School to freshman, sophomore, and junior classes.

La Salle High School challenges its students with a rigorous balance of college preparatory courses, religious education, and extracurricular enrichment activities. The school's diverse and inclusive student body has continually upheld the school's strong commitment to academic excellence. Since 1960, over 5,000 students have graduated from La Salle High School, and nearly 100 percent of the graduating class have gone on to attend public and private institutions of higher education across the Nation. In 2004, La Salle received a full 6-year accreditation from both the Western Association of Schools and Colleges and the Western Catholic Education Association.

For 50 years La Salle High School has fulfilled its commitment of service and education under the strong guidance of its faculty. With a philosophy focused on the uniqueness of the individual as a person with religious, intellectual, emotional, social, and physical potential, the faculty at La Salle High School has long provided its students with a solid educational, social, and spiritual foundation.

I ask all Members to join me today in honoring La Salle High School upon the celebration of its 50th anniversary. The entire community joins me in thanking La Salle High School for the outstanding educational opportunities that it has provided for the youth of California's 29th Congressional District.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

TEMPLE BETH SHOLOM'S DESIGNATION AS A NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK

HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2007

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Pennsylvania's newest National Historic Landmark—Temple Beth Shalom of Elkins Park.

On April 4, 2007, Department of Interior Secretary Dirk Kempthorne designated Beth Shalom as a National Historic Landmark, ensuring that it would be remembered for its importance in interpreting the heritage and history of our Nation.

As the only synagogue in my State honored with this distinction, Beth Shalom is a source of pride for the people of Montgomery County, greater Philadelphia, and Pennsylvania. Founded in 1919, Beth Shalom was the first Philadelphia congregation to move to the region's suburbs in the 1950s. Today, the congregation has a membership of more than 1,000 families.

Beth Shalom is also the only synagogue ever designed by America's renowned architect, Frank Lloyd Wright. Built between 1954 and 1959, Beth Shalom was constructed to represent two metaphors suggested by the congregation's then rabbi, Mortimer J. Cohen—a tent and Mt. Sinai—to convey the sense of a collective sacred space.

To fulfill this vision, Mr. Wright designed the temple as a hexagon. When asked why he chose this shape for the temple, Mr. Wright is reported as saying, "when one enters a place of worship he should feel as if he were resting in the very hands of God." Indeed, Beth Shalom is truly an awe-inspiring structure and worthy of its recognition as a National Historic Landmark.

So, Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in saying "Mazel Tov," to Beth Shalom's congregation, to express our collective congratulations, and wish them many more years of prosperity and success.

TRIBUTE TO THE BREAD OF LIFE DRIVE OF STATEN ISLAND, NY

HON. VITO FOSSELLA

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2007

Mr. FOSSELLA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Bread of Life Drive of Staten Island, NY. For the past 16 years, the University of Notre Dame Alumni Club of Staten Island has sponsored this enormous food drive, which provides necessary provisions to soup kitchens, shelters, and other charitable organizations on Staten Island. This year, with the help of students from 92 elementary, junior and high schools and colleges, this year's Bread of Life Drive was able to raise enough supplies to fully stock 25 essential organizations that serve the homeless, low-income families, single mothers, and victims of abuse.

Since its inception, the Bread of Life Drive has contributed 800,000 cans and boxes of food items to a wide range of charitable entities. This year's drive was very appropriately

dedicated to Father Ted Hesburgh, president emeritus of Notre Dame, in celebration of his 90th birthday.

I would also like to personally highlight the efforts of Joe Delaney who has tirelessly headed up the Bread of Life Drive for many years.

Madam Speaker, in closing, I would personally like to thank the University's Alumni Club as well as all of the students, teachers, family members, and volunteers for their tireless efforts to help the needy of Staten Island. These good Samaritans have made the Bread of Life Drive an exemplary model of generosity and selflessness. Finally, I would like to wish Father Hesburgh a very happy 90th birthday and many more.

CONGRATULATING THE MARCUS HIGH SCHOOL MEN'S SOCCER TEAM

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2007

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Marcus High School men's soccer team for winning the University Interscholastic League (UIL) 5A Soccer State Championship.

The Marcus Marauders defeated Plano West Senior High School to win the school's first men's soccer state championship. Glen Marshall scored a goal to send the game into overtime, as time was about to expire. After two scoreless overtime periods, a winner would be decided by a shootout. Eric Frazier, Jon McMullen, and Sam Garza scored in the shootout for the Marauders, and goalkeeper, Matt Chidsey, blocked three of Plano West's shots to win the championship. Andres Angulo was named the game's most valuable player. Angulo assisted on both of the Marauders' goals.

The Marauders finished their season with a perfect record of 30–0, outscoring their opponents 114–17. In the process, they recorded a school record 16 shutouts. The team is coached by John Gall.

I would like to offer my sincerest congratulations to the Marcus soccer team, Coach Gall, the parents, and all of Marcus High School for this great achievement. I wish them continued success in the future, and I am very proud to represent them in the 26th District of Texas.

TRIBUTE TO MR. JOHN CAMPBELL

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2007

Mr. STUPAK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of my constituents who has been of tremendous service to the economic growth in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. Mr. John Campbell has spent over thirty years helping to foster economic growth and development in the Eastern Upper Peninsula.

A lifelong Michigan resident, Mr. Campbell was born and raised in Brown City, Michigan. In 1956, he graduated from Central Michigan University with a major in biology and minors

in Chemistry and Physical Education. His graduate studies were taken at Michigan State University and Wayne State University from 1958 to 1963.

In early 1969, Mr. Campbell began his career at the Eastern Upper Peninsula Regional Planning & Development Commission as an economic planner. As early as his very first grant request, Mr. Campbell demonstrated his resolve and commitment to bringing funding for projects to the Upper Peninsula. His first grant request came from Kinnross Township, which was seeking funding for a recreational proposal. The plans for the proposal, which were sketched upon a tattered, torn and coffee stained brown paper bag, included the construction of a lighted racetrack, a grandstand and an underground walkway. At the time, the Department of Natural Resource's Recreation Grant Program did not cover any of these projects. Despite this challenge, Mr. Campbell toiled tirelessly and within the next five years, each of these projects was brought to completion.

As the Assistant Director of the Regional Commission from October 1970 through August 1973, Mr. Campbell directed and coordinated the planning, research, and grant efforts of the staff. During his early career at Regional Planning, Mr. Campbell was principally in charge of the Overall Economic Development Plan, which was produced with grant funding from the Economic Development Administration.

Mr. Campbell was also an integral figure in finding ways to reuse the Kincheloe Air Force Base. When Kincheloe Air Force Base was closed in the 1970s and it was announced that 10,000 service people would leave the region, it was expected that the local area would undergo a massive economic hit. However, thanks in large part to Mr. Campbell's hard work and creativity, Kincheloe Air Force Base and surrounding base sites were modified to be used for other purposes, creating additional economic activity. Within 12 years after the closing, four prisons and one work camp were installed at the base, along with 12 industrial companies and 15 retail businesses. In all, the local tax base had doubled, and the civilian payroll created by the new ventures had reached \$110 million.

While perhaps best known, redevelopment of Kincheloe Air Force Base was by no means Mr. Campbell's only project. Over his more than thirty years of work on economic development in the Upper Peninsula, Mr. Campbell was involved in nearly every major project in the immediate region. Among the projects he worked upon, Mr. Campbell helped oversee: the Newberry Streetscape/Infrastructure Project; road improvements near Hessel Block Company and Maples Sawmill CDBG; Tahquamenon Scenic Heritage Route Management Plan; a study of I-75; Easterday Avenue Interstate Bridge Crossing Study; De-Tour Village Water System Improvements; Eastern Upper Peninsula Regional Solid Waste Management Plan; Portage Township Land Use Plan; the establishment of the Chippewa County Industrial Park and Whitefish Township Plan.

Madam Speaker, throughout his distinguished career of service, Mr. Campbell has established a reputation as a consensus builder who can bring together different parties in the community to achieve shared results.

Residents throughout the Eastern Upper Peninsula describe Mr. Campbell as a quiet, but determined planner who knows the specifics of every project down to the last detail. Never one to seek credit for a particular project, he is known for his quiet demeanor, moving projects along to completion, but always humbly sharing the acclaim with those around him.

After over thirty years of service, Mr. Campbell is retiring. This weekend, residents of Chippewa County, Sault Ste. Marie and the Eastern Upper Peninsula will come together to honor Mr. Campbell for his many years of labor on behalf of economic growth in the Upper Peninsula. As this humble, hardworking man enters well-deserved retirement, I ask that you, Madam Speaker, and the entire U.S. House of Representatives join me in congratulating Mr. John Campbell and in wishing him and his wife, Geri, all the best for many years to come.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE COLON CANCER SCREENING FOR LIFE ACT

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2007

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the Colon Cancer Screen for Life Act, which I am introducing along with Congressman PHIL ENGLISH (R-PA) and Congressman ED TOWNS (D-NY). According to the American Cancer Society, this year alone, 52,180 Americans will die from colon cancer. In my own state of Massachusetts, 1,180 people will lose their life to this deadly disease. What makes statistics such as these all the more tragic is that unlike other forms of cancer, colorectal cancer is highly detectable and even treatable if it is caught early through a colonoscopy screening examination.

Recognizing the importance of early intervention, Congress acted to provide Medicare coverage for colorectal cancer screening (CRC) through colonoscopy in the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 and further expanded in 2000 when the colonoscopy benefit was added for high risk beneficiaries. Under this benefit, a low risk beneficiary is entitled to receive a colonoscopy once every ten years and a high risk beneficiary is entitled to a colonoscopy every two years. Despite this, recent studies have shown that patients are not utilizing coverage of CRC preventive screenings. According to the Government Accountability Office (GAO), since the implementation of the benefit in 1998, the percentage of Medicare beneficiaries receiving either a screening or a diagnostic colonoscopy has increased by only one percent.

A key reason for the low rate of colonoscopy screening in the Medicare population is rapidly declining rates of reimbursement for the procedure. Medicare reimbursement for colonoscopies performed in the outpatient setting has dropped by 33 percent from the initial 1998 levels. In many states today, Medicaid payment rates actually exceed Medicare reimbursement for colonoscopy. Unless we reverse this trend toward declining reimbursement, physicians will no longer be able to offer colonoscopies to Medicare beneficiaries. This bill increases

Medicare reimbursement rates by 30 percent for colonoscopies performed in an outpatient setting, and by 10 percent for procedures performed in the physician's office, to ensure that Medicare beneficiaries have access to these lifesaving procedures. Moreover, increasing colonoscopy screening rates will generate significant long-term savings for the Medicare program, in the form of foregone costs for costly colorectal cancer treatment.

Medicare also does not currently pay for a physician office visit prior to a screening colonoscopy. Colonoscopy procedures involve sedation, so physicians generally do not perform them without an office visit prior to the procedure to obtain the patient's medical history and to educate the patient about the steps he or she needs to take in order to prepare for the colonoscopy. A number of states actually require this pre-operative consultation. Medicare pays for this pre-operative visit when a colonoscopy is being performed in order to diagnose a patient—but it does not pay for such a visit prior to screening colonoscopies, even though the procedure is the same and presents the same risks to the patient. This bill fixes this discrepancy by providing Medicare reimbursement for the office visit that takes place prior to the screening colonoscopy.

Finally, reducing financial requirements on beneficiaries will encourage more people to take advantage of this preventive benefit. It was with this intent that Congress agreed to waive the Part B deductible as part of the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005. Unfortunately, since that time, CMS has misinterpreted this provision of law, claiming that the deductible is only waived if the beneficiary has a "clean" screening, but maintaining that the deductible still applies if the screening results in taking a biopsy or if a cancerous or pre-cancerous polyp. Under this nonsensical policy, a beneficiary is left not knowing whether or not the deductible is waived until after the screening. Those whose ability to pay is limited are therefore simply choosing not to take the risk. This bill would require that the deductible be waived for all screenings, regardless of the outcome.

Madam Speaker, as the old saying goes, "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure." This bill embodies this wisdom. In passing the Colon Cancer Screen for Life Act, we will not only be able to save lives but we will also be able to save money. According to the American Cancer Society, 153,760 new cases were diagnosed this year. Each of these cases will cost Medicare between \$35,000 and \$80,000 per patient to treat. For the bargain price of a little over \$200 dollars, we can stop this cancer before it starts. Seems to me that is not only the right thing to do, it is the smart thing to do.

I hope my Colleagues agree and will join me and Representatives ENGLISH and TOWNS in support of this important piece of legislation.

IN TRIBUTE TO MR. HAZELLE
"VON" HICKMAN

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2007

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize one of our na-

tion's true pioneers, a man who has graced the United States with his bravery and service, both as a Tuskegee Airman and an outstanding citizen of Milwaukee where he resided for over 50 years. The man I am talking about, Mr. Hazelle "Von" Hickman died March 14, 2007. Mr. Hickman's death came just two weeks before the Tuskegee Airmen were belatedly honored in Washington, D.C. with the Congressional Medal of Honor, the highest honor that can be conferred by Congress on March 29, 2007.

Mr. Hickman enlisted in the Army Air Force in 1940. He became one of the Tuskegee Airmen specializing in weapons maintenance and enemy aircraft plotting. The Tuskegee Airmen were a dedicated, determined group of young men who fought many obstacles and extreme prejudice to become America's first Black military airmen. Mr. Hickman was stationed in New Guinea and the Philippines. He received a Philippines Liberation Ribbon, American Theater Campaign Medal, Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal with 2 Bronze Stars, Good Conduct Medal and a Citation from President Truman before his Honorable Discharge.

Mr. Hickman received the JC Penney Golden Rule Award in recognition of outstanding volunteer service, was a leader in his neighborhood block watch, and was active in local politics. He was blessed with an outstanding singing voice and was a member of the Senior Choir at Shiloh Evangelical Lutheran Church and was the first African American member of the Pabst Choir.

Mr. Hickman was born in Inverness, Mississippi, on February 14, 1920. After completing military service, Mr. Hickman moved to Milwaukee in 1946. He worked for Pabst Brewery and retired after a 30 year tenure. Mr. Hickman met and married his wife of 60 years, Minnie (nee Prince) in Milwaukee. He is survived by his daughter, Gina Hickman, and sons Craig Hickman and Jop Blom and many relatives and friends. I am honored to have this opportunity to pay tribute to Mr. Hickman for his singular courage and unwavering commitment to our country and to Milwaukee.

DENY VISA TO HUN SEN'S
HENCHMAN

HON. DANA ROHRABACHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2007

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my grave concerns about a visit tomorrow by Cambodia's national Chief of Police, Hok Lundy, to the FBI's headquarters here in Washington. It is not an overstatement to say that Hok Lundy's involvement in human rights abuses, human and narcotics trafficking, and political violence should place him at the top of our list of people to keep out of the U.S., not at the top of our list of people with whom to try to cooperate.

Indeed, it was the FBI itself that labelled the March 1997 grenade attack on an opposition rally in Phnom Penh, which killed more than a dozen and wounded many others, including an American, as a terrorist attack. In the days after the July 1997 coup d'etat, Hok Lundy led forces loyal to Prime Minister Hun Sen—forces who were implicated in the extrajudicial killings. Credible evidence suggests that Hok

Lundy himself ordered the killing of a senior Ministry of Interior official shortly after the coup. Lundy was never investigated for the killing.

Hok Lundy has been deeply implicated in those events and many other abuses, including drug trafficking allegations confirmed by our own DEA. But last year the FBI gave him an award for cooperating in counterterrorism efforts, the U.S. Ambassador praised him, and the FBI has now invited him here for discussions on bilateral cooperation.

In a 2004 Proclamation, the President unambiguously stated that foreign officials suspected of involvement in corrupt activities should be barred from entry. This clearly should apply to Hok Lundy. In addition, in 2006, the Trafficking in Persons office of the State Department overruled other offices and agencies and denied Hok Lundy a visa based on credible allegations that he had helped free human traffickers.

Madam Speaker, we are well aware that the war on terrorism entails dealing with some questionable characters. But it is my hope that should those characters prove to be guilty of abuses and crimes they at a minimum be barred from coming to the United States, and at a maximum be investigated by the FBI and other relevant agencies. But we should not be giving recognition to a man who has arguably done more to undermine American aspirations for Cambodia—to bring that battered country peace, justice, and a rights respecting government—than almost anyone else. It is counter-productive, hypocritical, and downright dumb to pursue such cooperation with someone with a demonstrated track record of terrorism, not someone who fights it.

Neither the State Department nor the FBI has articulated why they think Hok Lundy is a credible, reliable partner. To fall back, as the State Department's spokesperson did yesterday, on lame procedural rhetoric—that there is “no legal bar to denying him a visa”—or on some spurious administrative need—an unexplained “policy need” to attend “some meetings”—is a gross insult not only to the people of Cambodia but also the people of America. I believe the State Department and FBI must explain themselves—and that the visa should be revoked immediately.

EULOGY OF CORPORAL MARK KIDD

HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2007

Mr. McCOTTER. Madam Speaker, I am here today with my colleague Mike Rogers to extend our sincerest gratitude to Cpl Mark Kidd—a son, grandson, brother, Marine and American—for his service to our nation, and to extend our deepest condolences to his family and friends. As a friend of the family it is very difficult for us to try to serve the dual roles that, in many ways, you helped give us on this sorrowful day.

Mark, as we all know, grew up cradled in the arms of his loved ones and strengthened here in the cradle of liberty. When he was called to serve he served in the defense of his nation, not by oppressing his fellow human beings in foreign lands, but by bringing eman-

cipation to them so that they, too, could yearn to breathe free. It is in such a way of service to our fellow human beings that we honor not only our nation, but more importantly, we honor the universal spirit of a loving God who created us all. Thus, it is important that we remember, even as we grieve today, how we are all frail ephemeral human beings, groping through this veil of tears toward the infinite eternal perfection of the loving God, who created and awaits us all. It is a daunting calling, then, that we must answer; to strive, suffer and serve on behalf of our fellow human beings,

But Mark was not daunted, Mark accepted this challenge and he devotedly, courageously, and honorably strove to help free an entire people. Now he is cradled in the arms of our loving God and, no doubt, having not slumbered through this earthly life he may truly say with joyous rapture; now God be thanked, who has matched us with his hour and caught our youth and wakened us from sleeping.

Thank you and may God continue to bless you, Cpl Mark Kidd—beloved son, grandson, brother, Marine, American.

IN MEMORY OF JOHNNY RAPERT

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2007

Mr. ROSS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Johnny Rapert of Hope, Arkansas, who passed away March 31, 2007.

Throughout his years of service to his community, to his students at the University of Arkansas Community College at Hope, and to the state of Arkansas, Johnny was a leader and an inspiration to many. His dedicated commitment to making his beloved state of Arkansas a better place to live was evident in everything he did.

Johnny was a former Chancellor of the University of Arkansas Community College at Hope and a former Arkansas State Representative. He was a devoted family man and a model civic leader. He was recognized as the 1996 Hope-Hempstead County Citizen of the Year and was a member of the Unity Baptist Church of Hope, the Lions Club and was a Gideon—all of which embodied his steadfast service and his dedication to giving back.

I send my deepest condolences to his wife, Pat; his sons Daniel Rapert of San Antonio, TX, Rick Dollins of Pochontas, AR, Robert “Bobby” Dollins of Pochontas, AR, and Michael Dollins of Granite City, IL; his daughters Debbie Yen of Memphis, TN, Patty Harrod of Strong, AR, Connie Zimmer of Hope, AR, and Donna Ragan of Pochontas, AR; his sister Rita Jackson of St. Louis, MO, and his 16 grandchildren.

Johnny will be missed by his family, his church, his community and all those who knew him and called him a friend. I will continue to keep his family in my thoughts and prayers.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO GLENN CHRISTENSON

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor my friend Glenn Christenson, who, retired on March 30, 2007, after serving as chief financial officer of Station Casinos for 17 years.

During his time as CFO of Station Casinos, Glenn was instrumental in helping the company dramatically increase its holdings and develop into an important gaming company. When Glenn joined Station Casinos the company held one casino. After 17 years of Glenn's guidance and leadership, the company now holds 16 casinos in southern Nevada and an American Indian casino in northern California.

For his efforts with Station Casinos, Glenn has been recognized as the Top Chief Financial Officer in gaming and lodging the past 2 years by Institutional Investor Magazine. He was also named to the Nevada Society of CPAs Hall of Fame for Business and Industry in 2001 and was recognized as one of the Most Influential Businessmen in southern Nevada by In Business magazine in 2002.

Glenn is very much involved with a number of important civic organizations. He is a member of the Board of Directors of the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority, the Board of Directors of the National Center for Responsible Gaming, the Board of Directors of Problem Gaming Consultants, the Board of Trustees of the Nevada Development Authority, the Board of Directors of the Nevada State College, the Board of Directors of Nevada Community Bancorp, and is an advisor to the UNLV Business School.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor my friend Glenn Christenson. His contributions to the Las Vegas business and civic communities are commendable and I wish him the best of luck in his retirement.

TRIBUTE TO DR. JAMES KOSSLER

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2007

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. James Kossler. Dr. Kossler has served the community for more than 40 years in education. During this time, he devoted 19 years to Pasadena City College (PCC), 12 of which he served as President. Dr. Kossler has dedicated himself to the promotion of student success and educational achievement.

Raised in Lynwood, California, Dr. Kossler received his bachelor's degree in philosophy and english from Saint John's College, California, and later earned a baccalaureate in theology and canon law from Gregorian University, Rome, Italy. He then obtained his Master of Science degree in school management, and his Doctor of Education degree in institutional management from Pepperdine University.

Dr. Kossler taught at numerous high schools in the Los Angeles area and also held positions at East Los Angeles College, the University of Southern California, Pepperdine University, and Long Beach City College before serving as Vice President of PCC in 1988. Since then, he has served as a member of the Chancellor's Task Force on the Community College Budget, the State Commission on Athletics, and the Community College League's Commission on Legislation and Finance. Along with his involvement in education, Dr. Kossler is also an active member in the Rotary Club of Pasadena, the Pasadena Senior Center, and the YWCA.

In October 1995, the Pasadena Area Community College District Board of Trustees appointed Dr. Kossler as the 10th President of PCC. Throughout his 12-year tenure as President, he advocated a vision that PCC would be a learning-centered institution that focused on improving the performance standards for students. Dr. Kossler aspired to increase the success of students in the completion of courses, number of degrees and certificates awarded, and the number of students transferring to 4-year institutions.

I ask all Members to join with me in congratulating Dr. James Kossler for his dedicated service and commitment to the promotion of education. I am sure that each person positively affected by Dr. Kossler's service will also join me in wishing him much joy in the years to come and thank him for his time, his energy, and his efforts.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2007

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I rise to state for the record that had I been present for the votes on H.R. 1677, the Taxpayer Protection Act, and H. Res. 196, supporting the goals and ideals of World Water Day, I would have voted in the affirmative for both bills. I was unable to vote for H.R. 1677 and H. Res. 196 because I was in an important meeting with constituents from Minnesota.

CELEBRATING WYNDMOOR HOSE CO. NO. 1'S CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY

HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2007

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate the Wyndmoor Hose Company No. 1 in Springfield Township, PA on celebrating its 100th Anniversary. Since 1907, volunteer firefighters have contributed their time, expertise, and in some cases, lives, to aid members of the Springfield community and surrounding areas. I am honored to represent them in Congress.

In Philadelphia 271 years ago, Benjamin Franklin started the first fire department in America. Franklin's brigade, comprised entirely of volunteers, was dedicated to looking out for

their neighbors. Today volunteers constitute 73 percent of all firefighters nationwide, and Franklin's proud tradition of volunteerism is being continued by the brave men and women of Wyndmoor Hose Company just a few miles from where it began.

This fire company began as an in-house fire brigade for the Nelson Valve Company. Over the years it evolved from tin hats and push carts to a Company of highly trained and motivated individuals who have used their training in basic life support, firefighting, rescue, and hazardous materials containment to serve the public good everywhere from their own streets to Ground Zero in New York City after the attacks of September 11, 2001.

In the densely populated region of Southeastern, P A, the Wyndmoor Hose Company protects residential areas, commercial businesses, professional offices, and industrial plants, including the United States Department of Agricultural research facility, and most importantly the lives of the residents of Pennsylvania's 13th District. As part of these efforts, Wyndmoor has also established an excellent reputation for conducting educational programming to teach children and families the importance of fire safety.

Madam Speaker, once again I congratulate all of the volunteers of the Wyndmoor Hose Company for their service, dedication, and sacrifice. I look forward to continuing our work together and ensuring another 100 years of success, safety and security.

COMMEMORATING THE 85TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE AMERICAN HELLENIC EDUCATIONAL PROGRESSIVE ASSOCIATION

SPEECH OF

HON. VITO FOSSELLA

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 16, 2007

Mr. FOSSELLA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association on the auspicious occasion of the 85th Anniversary of its founding. For nearly a century, AHEPA has been a leading organization of Greek-Americans, today representing 1.3 million individuals.

On July 26, 1922 AHEPA was formed by eight visionary Greek immigrants to unite their community against discrimination, denigration, and violence perpetrated by hate groups such as the Ku Klux Klan.

From its modest origins, AHEPA has grown into a bastion of philanthropy, education, humanitarianism, and family life. Its members are patriotic, civic-minded Americans enriched with a deep respect and admiration for the heritage and culture of their homeland, Greece, the cradle of democracy. Their members have served bravely in the armed forces, worked diligently in civilian life, and been elected to every level of American government.

Each year, AHEPA contributes more than two million dollars for scholarships, medical research grants, and other charitable causes. Since the 1940s, when its health centers first opened their doors, AHEPA has become a world-class benefactor of improved health care. From the Cooley's Anemia Foundation, which issues grants to medical researchers to

find a cure for the disease to the Bone Marrow Registry, established to help match those in need of marrow with compatible donors, Americans enjoy superior medical facilities and treatment thanks in part to AHEPA's assiduous efforts.

Mr. Speaker, in closing I would like to extend my congratulations and thanks to the entire AHEPA family, including the Daughters of Penelope, the Sons of Pericles, the Maids of Athena, and AHEPA's chapters in Canada and Australia. May their next 85 years be as productive and inspiring as the last.

CONGRATULATING THE GIRLS SOCCER TEAM AT THE COLONY HIGH SCHOOL

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2007

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the girls soccer team at The Colony High School on winning the class 4A Girls Soccer State Championship.

The Cougars of The Colony High School defeated Friendship High School by a score of 1-0 to win the class 4A Girls Soccer State Championship on Saturday, April 14, 2007. Junior midfielder Amanda Fancher scored the winning goal on a 22-yard free kick near the end of the first half. Amanda was also named the championship game's most valuable player.

The Colony finished the season with a record of 23-3-4, including shutouts in 11 of their final 12 games. The team has also beaten every soccer record ever set by the school.

I would like to offer my sincerest congratulations to coach Nicole Jund, the team, the parents and all students of The Colony High School for their great achievement. I wish them success in the future, and I am very proud to have them in the 26th District of Texas.

THE PATENT REFORM ACT OF 2007

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2007

Mr. BERMAN. Madam Speaker, today, I introduce "The Patent Reform Act of 2007", a product of both bicameral and bipartisan effort to reform the patent system to meet the challenges of the 21st century. I would especially like to thank Senator LEAHY for his dedication to addressing many of the inadequacies in our current patent system. Furthermore, I appreciate my past and present partners in this area—especially Congressman RICK BOUCHER, with whom I've worked closely to increase patent quality for the past several years, and Congressman LAMAR SMITH, who championed this issue last Congress.

Introduction of this legislation follows a number of recent judicial opinions and many hearings conducted over the past several years by the Subcommittee on Intellectual Property which ascertained that the current patent system is flawed. Over the last 5 years, there have been numerous attempts to define the

challenges facing the patent system today. Among the most notable contributions to this discourse are the Patent and Trademark Office's Twenty-First Century Strategic Plan, the Federal Trade Commission's report entitled "To Promote Innovation: The Proper Balance of Competition and Patent Law and Policy," The National Research Council's compilation of articles "A Patent System for the 21st Century" and the book titled "Innovation and Its Discontents," authored by two respected economists. These studies offer a number of recommendations for increasing patent quality and ensuring that patent protection promotes—rather than inhibits—economic growth and scientific progress. Consistent with the goals and recommendations of those reports, and based on past patent bills, the Patent Reform Act contains a number of provisions designed to improve patent quality, deter abusive practices by patent holders, provide meaningful, low-cost alternatives to litigation for challenging the patent validity and harmonize U.S. patent law with the patent law of most other countries.

Past attempts at achieving comprehensive patent reform have met with stiff resistance. However, the time to reform the system is way past due. The New York Times has noted, "Something has gone very wrong with the United States patent system." The Financial Times has stated, "It is time to restore the balance of power in U.S. patent law." Therefore, we are introducing this bill as a first step to restoring the necessary balance in our patent system.

I firmly believe that robust patent protection promotes innovation. However, I also believe that the patent system is strongest, and that incentives for innovation are greatest, when patents protect only those inventions that are truly innovative. When functioning properly, the patent system should encourage and enable inventors to push the boundaries of knowledge and possibility. If the patent system allows questionable patents to issue and does not provide adequate safeguards against patent abuses, the system may stifle innovation and interfere with competitive market forces.

This bill represents our latest perspectives in an ongoing discussion about legislative solutions to patent quality concerns, patent litigation abuses, and the need for harmonization. We have considered the multitude of comments received concerning prior patent bills and over the course of numerous negotiations between the parties. We acknowledge that the problems are difficult and, as yet, without agreed-upon solutions. It is clear, however, that introduction and movement of legislation will focus and advance the discussion. It is also clear that the problems with the patent system have been exacerbated by a decrease in patent quality and an increase in litigation abuses. With or without consensus, Congress must act to address these problems. Thus, we introduce this bill with the intent of passage in the 110th Congress.

There are a number of issues which we have chosen not to include in the bill, primarily because we hope they will be addressed without the need for legislation. For instance, the Supreme Court recently resolved questions regarding injunctive relief. In that category, we include amendments to Section 271(f) and the obviousness standard as both issues are currently before the Supreme Court. If either of those issues are left unresolved, Congress

may need to reevaluate whether to include them in a patent bill.

The bill does contain a number of initiatives designed to harmonize U.S. law with the law of other countries, improve patent quality and limit litigation abuses, thereby ensuring that patents remain positive forces in the marketplace. I will highlight a number of them below.

Section 3 converts the U.S. patent system from a first-to-invent system to a first-inventor-to-file system. The U.S. is alone in granting priority to the first inventor as opposed to the first inventor to file a patent. There is consensus from many global companies and academics that the switch in priority mechanisms provide the U.S. with greater international consistency, and eliminate the costly and complex interference proceedings that are currently necessary to establish the right to obtain a patent. While cognizant of the enormity of the change that a "first inventor to file" system may have on many small inventors and universities, we have maintained a grace period to substantially reduce the negative impact to these inventors. However, we need to maintain an open dialogue to ensure that the patent system will continue to foster innovation from individual inventors.

Section 5 addresses both the topic of apportionment and willfulness. Patents are provided to promote innovation by allowing owners to realize the value of their inventions. However, many have argued that recent case law has tilted towards overcompensation, which works against the primary goal of promoting innovation. "Excessive damages awards effectively allow inventors to obtain proprietary interests in products they have not invented, promote patent speculation and litigation and place unreasonable royalty burdens upon producers of high technology products. Such consequences may ultimately slow the process of technological innovation and dissemination the patent system is intended to foster." While preserving the right of patent owners to receive appropriate damages, the bill seeks to provide a formula to ensure that the patent owner be rewarded for the actual value of the patented invention.

Furthermore, this Section seeks to curb the unfair incentives that currently exist for patent holders who indiscriminately issue licensing letters. Patent proprietors frequently assert that another party is using a patented invention and for a fee, offer to grant a license for such use. Current law does little to dissuade patent holders from mailing such licensing letters. Frequently these letters are vague and fail to identify the particular claims of the patent being infringed and the manner of infringement. In fact, the law tacitly promotes this strategy since a recipient, upon notice of the letter, may be liable for treble damages as a willful infringer. Section 5 addresses this situation by ensuring that recipients of licensing letters will not be exposed to liability for willful infringement unless the letter clearly states the acts that allegedly constitute infringement and identifies each particular patent claim to the product or process that the patent owner believes is being infringed.

Section 6 provides a needed change to the inter-partes reexamination procedure. Unfortunately, the inter-partes reexamination procedure is rarely used, but the changes we introduce should encourage third parties to make better use of the opportunity to request that the PTO Director reexamine an issued patent

of questionable validity. Primarily though, Section 6 creates a post-grant opposition procedure. In an effort to address the questionable quality of patents issued by the USPTO, the bill establishes a check on the quality of a patent immediately after it is granted, or in circumstances where a party can establish significant economic harm resulting from assertion of the patent. The post-grant procedure is designed to allow parties to challenge a granted patent through a expeditious and less costly alternative to litigation. Many have expressed concerns about the possibility of harassment of patent owners who want to assume quiet title over their invention. In an effort to address those concerns, the bill prohibits multiple bites at the apple by restricting the cancellation petitioner to opt for only one window one time. The bill also requires that the Director prescribe regulations for sanctions for abuse of process or harassment. During the legislative process we will likely provide more statutory guidance for the Director in establishing regulations guiding the post-grant opposition. We appreciate that this is an extremely complicated and new procedure and therefore we look forward to working with various industries to ensure the proceeding is balanced, fair and efficient. Part of the goal of this Section is to also address the quality problem in patents which have already been issued and are at the heart of the patent reform discussion.

Section 9 permits third parties a limited amount of time to submit to the USPTO prior art references relevant to a pending patent application. Allowing such third party submissions will increase the likelihood that examiners have available to them the most relevant "prior art," thereby constituting a front-end solution for strengthening patent quality.

The bill also addresses changes to venue to address extensive forum shopping, provides for interlocutory appeals to help clarify the claims of the inventions early in the litigation process, establishes regulatory authority for the USPTO to parallel the authority of other agencies, and expands prior user rights to accommodate in part for the switch to first-inventor-to-file.

When considering these provisions together, we believe that this bill provides a balanced package of reforms that successfully accounts for the interests of numerous stakeholders in the patent system, including individual inventors, small enterprises, universities, and the varied industry groups, and that are necessary for the patent system to achieve its primary goal of advancing innovation.

This bill is the latest iteration of a process started many years ago. Deserving of thanks are the many constitutional scholars, policy advocates, private parties, and government agencies that have and continue to contribute their time, thoughts, and drafting talents to this effort, including, of course, the legislative counsel. I am pleased that finally, we have a critical mass of interested parties who understand the need for reform.

Though we developed this bill in a highly deliberative manner, using many past bills as the foundation for the provisions, I do not want to suggest that it is a "perfect" solution. This bill is merely the first step in a process. Thus, I remain open to suggestions for amending the language to improve its efficacy or rectify any unintended consequences. Furthermore, there are a host of issues or varied approaches to

patent reform which are likely not even covered by the bill but may be considered at a later time. I hope to work with the many co-sponsors and the diverse industry, university and inventor groups to reach further consensus as we move this bill towards final passage.

As I have said previously, "The bottom line in this is there should be no question that the U.S. patent system produces high quality patents. Since questions have been raised about whether this is the case, the responsibility of Congress is to take a close look at the functioning of the patent system." High patent quality is essential to continued innovation. Litigation abuses, especially ones committed by those which thrive on low quality patents, impede the promotion of the progress of science and the useful arts. Thus, we must act quickly during the 110th Congress to maintain the integrity of the patent system.

GLORIA MARSHALL—EDUCATOR

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2007

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, Gloria Marshall is the well-respected principal of Spring High School in my district. I am proud to know her because she has devoted her entire life to education and to the well-being of our Nation's most important asset, our children.

Not only do the students admire her, but the parents and faculty of Spring High School cannot say enough about what she has done for the community.

Approximately 33 years ago, after receiving her bachelor's degree, Gloria took a teaching job for the nationally-recognized Spring Independent School District. While teaching at the high school, she earned a master's degree and later became principal.

Gloria's career has been highlighted by numerous awards both locally and at the state level. She was named Teacher of the Year at Spring Elementary School in 1979. In 2003, Spring ISD named her Secondary Principal of the Year. On a state-wide basis, she was named 2002–2003 Principal of the Year by Texas Region IV Education Service Center.

Under her guidance, The U.S. Department of Education has named Spring High School a "Blue Ribbon School" and also honored them with "Drug Free School Recognition Awards."

Not only is she a top-notch administrator in the education field, she is a faithful community servant who believes in helping local charities. For example, her school holds an annual food drive for Spring Assistance Ministries during the Christmas holiday. She encourages her students to collect thousands of pounds of food for the organization and to take responsibility in caring for their neighbors.

Gloria has an unwavering commitment to teach young people how to be responsible citizens and people of character.

The students of Spring High School are very fortunate to have such a dedicated principal who always has a positive attitude and commitment to excellence. She is a remarkable educator and an inspiration to all of us. That's just the way it is!

INTRODUCING THE CATHERINE SKIVERS CURRENCY FOR ALL ACT

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2007

Mr. STARK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Catherine Skivers Currency for All Act.

This bill would finally make the United States' paper currency accessible to blind and visually impaired Americans. Of the more than 180 countries in the world that issue their own banknotes, only the U.S. prints identical bills for every denomination. As a result, millions of Americans with visual impairments cannot recognize various denominations and may have difficulty using paper money. This legislation would, at long last, make our currency accessible to all.

Thanks to a recent court case, the inaccessibility of American currency has received significant national attention. In November, a federal court agreed with the American Council of the Blind that the current size and shape of bills violates the Rehabilitation Act, which prohibits the government from discriminating against people with disabilities.

The Treasury Department is appealing the decision. But Congress has the ability to do the right thing before the appeal is heard. I first introduced this bill in 1979 and think it is embarrassing that, more than 25 years later, blind Americans had to sue their government requesting access to their own currency. We should not delay or deny justice any longer.

I propose this particular solution because it is simple, effective, and easy to implement quickly. My legislation requires the U.S. Treasury to trim the corners of all bills in a manner that prevents fraud, with lower value bills having more trimmed corners.

My bill calls for the trimming of four corners on the one dollar bill, three corners on the two dollar bill, two diagonal corners on the five dollar bill, two corners on a long side of the ten dollar bill, two corners on a short side of the 20 dollar bill, one corner on the 50 dollar bill, and no corners on the 100 dollar bill.

I named this bill in honor of Catherine Skivers, a remarkable woman of strength and conviction. Catherine is a constituent of mine, mother of five, longtime advocate for the rights of blind people, and the immediate past president of the California Council of the Blind. It is for Catherine and millions of other blind and vision-impaired Americans that I will work to enact this legislation.

Next to the flag of the United States, our money is perhaps the most widely recognized symbol of our nation. We deserve no less than a currency that serves the needs of all Americans. Let us not let another year pass with our currency in violation of our own laws and commitment to equality.

RECOGNIZING JACKIE ROBINSON DAY

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate Jackie Robinson, a

sports trailblazer, civil rights activist, veteran, and great American and to enter into the record an article from the New York Daily News by Lisa Olson entitled "Barriers Still Need Breaking—Up to us to complete Robinson's great work."

Long before Jackie Robinson stood up to racism and smashed through the barriers of segregation in Major League Baseball on April 15, 1947, he was fighting for equality. He enlisted in the Army in 1942 and rose to the rank of Second Lieutenant. In July of 1944, he refused to sit in the back of a segregated military bus and although a court martial was issued for insubordination, he was found not guilty and honorably discharged in November of that same year. The courage displayed during this incident, as well as his commitment to the Army, helped prepare him for the battlefield of discrimination he would encounter on the baseball diamond.

Despite the hostility of opponents and even teammates, on April 15, 1947, Jackie Robinson had the courage to join the Brooklyn Dodgers and became the first Black man to play in baseball's major leagues. He knew that excellence was the calling and he proved his skill and talent on the baseball field. With tremendous pressure and opposition from fans and even some teammates, he handled himself with grace on and off the field. Because of his commitment and determination to be the best in the face of prejudice, African American and other minority athletes have been afforded the opportunity to compete in professional sports today.

Jackie Robinson received numerous awards and honors during his extraordinary career, and was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame. His legacy and outstanding contribution to Major League Baseball and America is representative of what America is all about. This country is about opportunity, diversity, and humility. I applaud Jackie Robinson for leaving a legacy of excellence, breaking down segregation, and inspiring people to strive for the best.

[From the Daily News]

BARRIERS STILL NEED BREAKING—UP TO US TO COMPLETE ROBINSON'S GREAT WORK

(By Lisa Olson)

They don't have to dress in the broom closet. They can drink from the same water fountains, eat at the same buffet, stay in the same ritzy hotels, swim in the same pools.

It's almost incomprehensible to imagine the America that greeted and jeered Jackie Robinson 60 years ago yesterday, when he bounded out of the dugout at Ebbets Field and became the first African-American Major League Baseball player of the modern era.

There were racial slurs and despicable letters, flying cleats and death threats, opponents who turned their back on him and Brooklyn Dodger teammates who wouldn't sit near him. We blithely toss around the words "courage" and "hero" far too often these days, but they can't be used enough to describe Jackie Robinson. MLB retired his No. 42 on April 15, 1997, the 50th anniversary of Robinson's major league debut, and temporarily suspended it yesterday, a serendipitous gesture that coincided with yet another hit to the American conscience.

Ken Griffey Jr. was the first contemporary player to push for the movement, to ask commissioner Bud Selig for permission to honor Robinson by wearing No. 42. Griffey, who donned six different jerseys in the Reds' game against the Cubs, told reporters, "I think a lot of people wouldn't be in this locker room if it wasn't for what he did."

More than 200 players and managers joined the tribute, and there was No. 42 on the back of every Dodger last night, and on the Cardinals' Albert Pujols as he tipped his cap, Robinson-style, while crossing the plate after belting a home run, and on Arizona's Tony Clark as he swatted two of his own, and on Cleveland's C.C. Sabathia as he struck out 10 White Sox and then talked about how he wanted to make sure he represented Robinson's legacy with grace and class.

There was Dontrelle Willis, an All-Star, a 20-game winner, saying wearing No. 42 was "the highest honor I've ever received in my life." There was Chris Young, Padre starter and Princeton graduate, recalling how he wrote his senior thesis on Robinson while sitting in the back of the bus as his Class A team, the Hickory Crawdads, traveled the South Atlantic League roads.

Young took America's pulse by analyzing newspaper reports, both before Robinson broke the color barrier and after. "I observed there was significant improvement in the attitude of the media toward African-Americans. Not from negative to positive so much as negative to neutral," Young told ESPN The Magazine. "I excluded sports, but prior to Robinson breaking the color line, you'd see reporters frequently using expressions like 'a Negro hoodlum' in their stories. I noticed coverage that was much more neutral after the integration of baseball."

And there was the Twins' Torii Hunter, pulling his black socks high and dropping into a curling slide as he safely nailed home on the same day his op-ed piece appeared in the Pioneer Press. "You don't have to be African-American to know what (Robinson) went through. You've just got to be a smart person or a person who knows what pain is like," Hunter wrote. "For the past 10 years, I've been called the N-word, like, 20 times. Not in Minnesota. In Kansas City. In Boston."

Clearly we haven't yet demolished the racial barrier, or wiped out negative language. Sixty years after Robinson authored the most seminal moment in American sports history, Hunter is still called the N-word, and the Rutgers women's basketball team gets bombarded with hateful E-mails simply because it had the misfortune of being caught in the maelstrom created by Don Imus' nasty mouth.

In August 1945, in a conversation now cemented in American lore, Dodger president Branch Rickey told Robinson, "I know you're a good ballplayer. What I don't know is whether you have the guts."

"Mr. Rickey," Robinson asked, "are you looking for a Negro who is afraid to fight back?"

"Robinson, I'm looking for a ballplayer with enough guts not to fight back," Rickey said, and thus an unspoken pact was sealed.

Robinson altered the complexion of our pastime and forced Americans to understand blacks could be equal with whites. How shocking, how depressing, that 60 years later, not everyone seems to get it.

"The course of history probably would have changed had he quit because he was the smartest of the Negro League players," Hunter wrote. "This was a guy who went to UCLA and played four sports in college. He had an education. If he had quit—the guy who was supposed to be the strongest of the Negro League and the smartest of the Negro

League—why go get the others? They wouldn't be able to handle it if he couldn't handle it."

They took No. 42 out of retirement and put it on their backs yesterday, black and white and Latino and Asian players proudly wearing the digits. In clubhouses and stadium seats all across the land, stories were repeated about how Pee Wee Reese, a white shortstop from Louisville, once draped an arm over Robinson's shoulder in a silent show of support. It ought to be Jackie Robinson Day every day.

HONORING CHERIF BASSIOUNI

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2007

Mr. EMANUEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the long and distinguished career of Cherif Bassiouni. Professor Bassiouni is retiring from his position as President of the International Human Rights Law Institute and Distinguished Research Professor of Law at DePaul University after 43 years of dedicated service.

Throughout his legendary career, Professor Bassiouni has been a champion of the poor and voiceless worldwide. His creation of the International Human Rights Law Institute at DePaul University is just one of his many lasting contributions to human rights and international law.

For 30 years, Professor Bassiouni has been an important leader within the United Nations, holding such positions as Chairman of the Security Council's Commission to Investigate War Crimes in the Former Yugoslavia and the Independent Expert on Human Rights in Afghanistan for the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Often considered the father of the International Criminal Court, Professor Bassiouni was the Chairman of the Drafting Committee during the 1998 United Nations Diplomatic Conference on the Establishment of an International Criminal Court. As a testament to his lifelong dedication to international criminal justice, he was nominated for a Noble Peace Prize in 1999.

For his global efforts, Professor Bassiouni has received medals from his native Egypt, France, Germany, Italy, and the United States. He has also received numerous academic and civic awards, including the Special Award of the Council of Europe; the Defender of Democracy Award, Parliamentarians for Global Action; and the Adlai Stevenson Award of the United Nations Association.

Madam Speaker, I congratulate Cherif Bassiouni on his long and noteworthy career, and thank him for his contributions to the international community and to the people of Chicago. DePaul University is certainly going to miss him, and I wish him the best of luck in all his future endeavors.

IN MEMORY OF LORAN JOHNSON

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2007

Mr. ROSS. Madame Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of my friend Loran Johnson of Warren, Arkansas, who passed away April 6, 2007.

Mr. Johnson was committed to making the state of Arkansas a better place to live through his hard work and dedication to his community. He is noted as the founder of the Bradley County Pink Tomato Festival because of its start in 1956 while he was manager of the Warren Chamber of Commerce. He also spent his time promoting Southeast Arkansas with the Southeast Arkansas Economic Development District and the Bradley County Industrial Development Commission.

Mr. Johnson served in the Navy during World War II and received his Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Arkansas at Monticello (UAM) upon returning. He then taught in Swifton and Warren where he also sponsored the Future Farmers of America (FFA). Because of his work with the FFA students there is now a Loran Johnson Endowed Scholarship Fund at UAM for early childhood education majors.

Mr. Johnson was a devoted family man and a model civic leader. He was a member of the Arkansas Cattleman's Association, the Bradley County Retired Teacher's Association, the American Legion and he served as a delegate to the Arkansas Silver-Haired Legislature. He was a member of the First Baptist Church of Warren where he served as the program chairman for the Brotherhood Men's Group.

I send my deepest condolences to his wife, Madge Bryant Johnson; his children Wayne Johnson of Warren, LoraNelle Humphrey of Stuttgart and Camille Johnson Lide of Little Rock; and his grandsons, nieces and nephews. Mr. Johnson will be missed by his family, his church, his community and all those who knew him and called him a friend. I will continue to keep his family in my thoughts and prayers.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO TYLER FULLER

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Tyler Fuller, a 7-year-old international BMX champion.

Tyler, a two-time Union Cycliste Internationale BMX champion, learned to ride a bike at the age of 2 and began BMX racing at the age of 3. When he was 5 years old, Tyler joined the Redman Yamaha Factory Team and has been racing for them since that time. Tyler has competed in events around the world and his natural ability and dedication to the sport have earned him recognition as one of the top four BMX racers in his age group.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Tyler Fuller. His talent, drive, and passion are commendable and will serve him well. I wish him continued success in his future endeavors.

HONORING MATTHEW LA PORTE

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2007

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Matthew La Porte of Dumont, New Jersey who was tragically lost during the events at Virginia Tech on Monday, April 16, 2007.

Matt was a sophomore at Virginia Tech and had already made quite a mark on campus. He was awarded an ROTC scholarship, was a member of the Corps of Cadets, played tenor drum in the Corps' Highty Tights regimental band, and was part of the Air Force Special Operations Preparation Team.

Before he began his education in Blacksburg, Matt graduated third in his class from Carson Long Military Institute in Pennsylvania. Aside from being an avid scholar, Matt was involved in numerous extracurriculars that ranged from drum and bugle corps to the baseball and soccer teams.

At home in New Jersey, Matt worked as a lifeguard at the Cresskill Municipal Pool during the summer and is remembered by neighbors as a polite and humorous young man.

I offer my deepest condolences to his parents, Barbara and Joseph La Porte, and his sister, Priscilla, and assure them that they are being remembered in our thoughts and prayers as we celebrate the impressive life of their son and brother, Matthew La Porte.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE
GREAT CATS CONSERVATION ACT

HON. HENRY E. BROWN, JR.

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2007

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, today, I am pleased to introduce, along with the distinguished gentleman from Alaska, the former Chairman of the Resources Committee, the Honorable DON YOUNG, the Great Cats Conservation Act of 2007.

This legislation is modeled after the very successful conservation statutes that Congress has enacted to assist highly endangered elephants, rhinoceros, tigers, great apes and marine turtles. It is based on the sound principle that a small amount of U.S. taxpayer assistance to range states can make a huge difference in preventing the extinction of certain landmark species.

Under my bill, a Great Cats Conservation Fund would be established and up to \$5 million per year would be authorized to be appropriated for conservation projects to assist species of cheetahs, jaguars, lions, leopards and Spanish lynx. These species were selected because they are listed as endangered under our federal Endangered Species Act, on Appendix I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora and on the IUCN red list.

There is no question that populations of these wild species of big cats are in serious decline and that their long-term survival is in real jeopardy. For instance, an excellent example of the type of decline these species have suffered can be illustrated in the plight of

the majestic cheetah. At the turn of the 20th century, it was estimated that there were more than 100,000 cheetahs living in 44 African and Asian countries. Today, there are no more than 15,000 cheetahs living in small-pocketed populations in some 20 nations in Africa.

While the reasons for this precipitous decline include loss of habitat, hunting and illegal poaching of cheetahs, this unique species, which is the world's fastest land mammal, has become extinct in more than half of its traditional historic range. Due to the efforts of outstanding international organizations, like the Cheetah Conservation Fund, its slide towards total extinction has been slowed but its future remains very much clouded. The sad reality is that many landowners in countries, like Namibia, consider cheetahs a pest and they kill them to protect their livestock. This philosophy must be changed if the cheetah has any hope of survival. The Great Cats Conservation Fund would make a positive difference in financing projects to work with impacted farmers and ranchers.

Nearly 20 years ago, the Congress demonstrated farsighted international leadership and wisdom when it approved the first ever conservation fund to assist an endangered foreign flagship species. This law, known as the African Elephant Conservation Act of 1988, has been remarkably successful and all of the improvements in making these conservation grants really work have been incorporated within this legislation.

For instance, under the terms of this bill, a prospective grantee would be required to submit a detailed overview of the project, how it would be implemented, how long it would take to complete the project, a demonstration of local support and an indication of whether and how much private matching funds would be forthcoming. The Secretary of the Interior would then carefully review each project and would select those that would have the most impact on conserving endangered big cats. Furthermore, this project would be monitored by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, all expenditures would be audited and an advisory group to assist the Secretary may be convened.

As a member of the International Conservation Caucus, it is my view that we have a responsibility to help save keystone species like cheetahs, leopards, lions and jaguars for future generations. In good conscience, how can we watch these species disappear forever without doing anything to assist them.

This legislation will not by itself ensure the long-term survival of these endangered big cat species. Nevertheless, it is a positive step in the right direction, it builds upon the success of a proven program and it again demonstrates to the world that the United States is serious about international wildlife conservation.

It is my hope that many of my colleagues will join with me in this effort by co-sponsoring this legislation and that the Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife and Oceans, of which I proudly serve as the ranking Republican member, will hold a public hearing on the Great Cats Conservation Act.

Madam Speaker, I urge support for this important wildlife conservation legislation.

COMMEMORATING THE 85TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE AMERICAN HELLENIC EDUCATIONAL PROGRESSIVE ASSOCIATION

SPEECH OF

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 16, 2007

Mr. SPACE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 71, a measure commemorating the 85th Anniversary of the founding of the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association (AHEPA), a leading voice for the nation's 1.3 million American citizens of Greek ancestry and Philhellenes.

First founded in July of 1922, AHEPA focused on responding to the bigotry and racism that was targeted at Greeks in early 20th century American society. The organization also concentrated on helping Greek immigrants assimilate into society.

Today, the mission of AHEPA has evolved to reflect better times. Now, members of AHEPA concentrate on working to promote Hellenism, education, philanthropy, civic responsibility, and family and individual excellence—all of which are pillars of both the organization and Greek society.

The principles of Hellenism—humanity, freedom, and democracy—have been broadcast around the world. In fact, not surprisingly, they were the principles that America's Founding Fathers looked to for inspiration in forming a new government. In fact, American representative democracy, as we know it, is rooted in the philosophy and ethos of the Greeks.

Greek-Americans, such as myself and 1.3 million others, are fortunate to have the outreach and leadership that AHEPA provides to our community. Thousands of students have had the opportunity to take advantage of AHEPA's scholarship programs. Over the years, countless volunteer hours have been donated to worthwhile projects such as the restoration of the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island. With chapters across the nation, AHEPA communicates its members' positions to local and Federal legislators to ensure that Greek-American views play a role in not just the history, but also the future, of our Nation.

As a member of the Hellenic Caucus and as a Greek-American, I am proud to support H. Con. Res. 71. AHEPA deserves this recognition on the occasion of its 85th Anniversary for all that the organization has done and all that it will continue to do.

TRIBUTE TO BILL KANE

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2007

Mr. PASCRELL. Madam Speaker, I would like to call to your attention the deeds of an outstanding American, Mr. Bill Kane, who will be recognized on April 19, 2007 for his many years of service to organized labor throughout the region.

Bill first became involved in the labor movement in 1967, as a member of the United Auto Workers Local 1612, in Philadelphia, PA while

he was working at ITE Gould. Bill worked his way up through the ranks, serving as a Shop Steward, Executive Member at large, and Bargaining Committee Member for the local.

In 1982, Bill was appointed to serve as a United Auto Workers International Representative. In this capacity, he serviced UAW Local Unions in New York and Pennsylvania as well as New Jersey. In 1989, he was chosen to serve as the New Jersey Area Director of UAW Region 9. He held this position until his retirement from the UAW in 1997.

His dedication to his union brothers and sisters did not go unnoticed, and he served as the elected Secretary Treasurer of the New Jersey State Industrial Union Council from 1989 until 1994. In 1994, he was elected to lead this group as its President.

In addition to his professional accomplishments, Bill has always found time for public service. He has served as a member of the Board of Trustees for the College of New Jersey, a member of the New Jersey Commission for National Service, a member of the State Advisory Committee of Rutgers University School of Labor Management and Relations, and a member of the New Jersey State Employment and Training Commission.

As Bill retires as President of the Industrial Union Council, I know that he will continue to volunteer and help others. He will also be able to enjoy spending more time at his home in Westwood, NJ with his wife Darlene and daughter Marissa.

The job of a United States Congressman involves much that is rewarding, yet nothing compares to working with and recognizing the efforts of dedicated community servants like Bill Kane.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, everyone involved in the New Jersey State Industrial Union Council, Bill's family and friends, and me in recognizing Bill Kane's outstanding service to his community.

IN HONOR OF CHARLIE ESKRIDGE

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2007

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a man who has dedicated many years of his life in respectful service to our nation and its military veterans. Charlie Eskridge has spent the past 54 years serving this country as a member of the U.S. Army and as a distinguished representative within the American Legion.

Charlie enlisted into the Army in 1953 and during his 30 years of military service, he was 1st Sergeant of a medical company and also served as a Non-commissioned Officer in Charge for several medical clinics. He joined the American Legion in 1975 and has since held a wide array of positions, always advocating for the needs of his fellow veterans.

Charlie has served the American Legion at all levels and has been a delegate to six National Conventions. As the American Legion Department Commander for California, Charlie actively represented 104,000 members. He traveled throughout the state to personally listen to the concerns and suggestions of other veterans and Legionnaires, and worked diligently to ensure that their voices were rep-

resented. Charlie has always made the interests of veterans his personal responsibility, and has ensured that support was provided to everyone with whom he spoke.

Outside of his contributions to the American Legion, Charlie is also deeply involved in his community. He is currently the President of the Protestant Men of Chapel at Fort Ord, California and a member of the Monterey County Military and Veterans Affairs Advisory Commission. Charlie has served as both President and Vice President of the United Veterans Council and even served as the President of his local Parent-Teacher Association. As a result of his immense contributions, Charlie has received the admiration of his community and has been awarded the Military Chapel's Unsung Hero Award, the Scroll of Honor, and has twice been named "Veteran of the Year" by the United Veterans Council and the Sons of the American Legion.

Most importantly Charlie has had the love and support of his wife, and partner, Rosie, who has accompanied him on his many visits with veterans throughout the state of California. After almost 50 years of marriage Charlie and Rosie have two sons, Alvin and Charlie II, one daughter, Rosemary, and five grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the House of Representatives, I would like to extend our Nation's deepest gratitude for Charlie Eskridge's service to the United States of America and for his many accomplishments for our military veterans.

THE CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION OF UNITED METHODIST HOMES

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2007

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today to join the celebration of United Methodist Homes of New Jersey's 100 years of service to Garden State seniors. Starting in 1907 with a single home for the aged in Ocean Grove, New Jersey, today, United Methodist Homes is a network of ten homes serving more than 1400 seniors.

The flagship of this network, Bristol Glen, is nestled in Newton, in my District. It is a continuing care retirement community offering quality health care services, a wide variety of residential living conveniences, and a loving and friendly environment.

I recently visited Bristol Glen as part of my Mobile Constituent Service Hours program and had the opportunity to meet with residents and staff alike. I was struck by the extraordinary sense of community there. The emphasis is truly on well-being of the residents as a whole—catering equally to the spiritual, emotional, and physical needs of all who live there.

As it enters its second century of public service throughout New Jersey, I commend United Methodist Homes of New Jersey for all it does to make the golden years truly golden for so many seniors.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO JOSHUA THOMAS GALLO

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Joshua Thomas Gallo who has received the rank of Eagle Scout.

Joshua is a very studious and civically minded young man who has accomplished many goals. He has volunteered at food banks and donated blood as part of his civic commitment. Joshua has also recently been accepted to several different colleges to study medicine, thereby demonstrating his academic prowess.

Most recently, Joshua has earned the rank of Eagle Scout from troop 213. For the last 6 months Joshua has prepared himself for this momentous achievement by serving as a Life Scout and he has also earned 21 merit badges in fields such as: emergency preparedness, first aid, citizenship in community, citizenship in nation, citizenship in world, communications and environmental science.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Joshua Thomas Gallo for earning the distinguished rank of Eagle Scout. I honor his hard work and commitment in fulfilling the demanding requirements of this award. I wish him the best in his future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING THE 85TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WOMAN'S CLUB OF DUNNELLON

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2007

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker, May 10, 2007 marks the 85th anniversary celebration of the Woman's Club of Dunnellon. This outstanding charitable organization, located in Marion County in Florida's 5th congressional district, has spent the better part of the last century working on behalf of the good people of Dunnellon.

Volunteerism is an important part of many peoples lives, especially so throughout the 5th District of Florida. Many local organizations have worked very hard to make sure that the neediest amongst us have access to basic necessities like transportation to the doctor, hot meals, hospice care, day care, and providing support for our troops and their families.

The Woman's Club of Dunnellon has been at the forefront of these efforts for the past 85 years, continually finding ways to help give back to their friends and neighbors. From city beautification efforts, to educational seminars, to helping meet the needs of area residents during times of war, the woman's club has many achievements of which to be proud.

On the occasion of their 85th anniversary celebration, I would like to congratulate the women's club on their continued support and commitment to the residents of Dunnellon. Keep up the good work and know that you have my thanks for improving the lives of Marion County residents.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND
IDEALS HIGHLIGHTED THROUGH
NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK

SPEECH OF

HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2007

Mr. TIAHRT. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of National Volunteer Week. Our communities across the country are a better place because of the commitment of America's volunteers. Being a volunteer means giving your time unconditionally and having a heart full of compassion. Many times this giving person doesn't receive any sort of thanks or gratitude, but still continues to give what they can to their community without receiving recognition.

Today, I would like to recognize and thank Treatha Brown-Foster from the 4th District of Kansas for all her diligent work. Treatha has a diverse portfolio of programs and activities for which she volunteers. A few programs she participates in include: procuring funding for the Christmas Treasures Fund for the Boys and Girls Club, motivating the public to cooperate with law enforcement agencies as a member of the Crime Stoppers Board, and serving on the Board of Governors for the Dwight D. Eisenhower Excellence in Public Service Series.

Treatha's commitment to her community is remarkable. At a time when it seems many people are focused on themselves, it is refreshing to see people like Treatha, who want to do more for others and do so with joy in their hearts and smiles on their faces. Much of this service goes unrecognized, so today I thank Treatha and others like her for their hard work and compassion.

I encourage my colleagues to promote National Volunteer Week and thank the many millions of Americans who dedicate themselves to bettering our communities. As the saying goes, "Volunteers don't get paid; not because they're worthless but because they're priceless." God bless Treatha Brown-Foster and America's priceless volunteers.

RECOGNIZING APRIL AS OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY MONTH AND THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY TO OUR NATION'S VETERANS

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2007

Mr. MICHAUD. Madam Speaker, I rise in recognition of April as Occupational Therapy Month and in my capacity as Chairman of the Veteran's Affairs Health Subcommittee, to acknowledge the contributions of occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants to not only our veterans across the country, but also our brave service men and women serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. I would also like to recognize the importance of occupational therapists to the families of our service personnel. We often forget that behind every soldier are loved ones who endure the hardship of the soldier while they are in harm's

way and when they come home and take off the uniform.

Occupational therapy is a profession dedicated to the improvement of function, performance and independence. Occupational therapists work with individuals across their lifespan to prevent injury, restore function and reduce disability so that patients may live satisfying, productive and independent lives.

In my home state of Maine, occupational therapists provide essential health and rehabilitation services to veterans at the Togus Veterans Hospital and at six veterans' homes throughout the state including four in my district located in Augusta, Bangor, Caribou and Machias. Services provided in these locations stem from a range of conditions resulting from traumatic injuries experienced in combat such as amputations and poly-traumas, post-traumatic stress disorder, illness and disease and the disabling effects of aging.

In order to meet the need of veterans, Schools of Occupational Therapy in Maine, such as the Kennebec Valley Community College, work collaboratively with the veterans' facilities in the state to ensure that there are enough trained health care professionals, like occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants, to meet the needs of our veterans.

During the month of April, the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) will be hosting the Association's 87th Annual Conference and Expo in St. Louis, Missouri. Occupational therapists, occupational therapists assistants and students of occupational therapy from around the country will gather to support the profession and further their educational preparation to meet the needs of their patients. State affiliates like the Maine Occupational Therapy Association (MEOTA) will also be represented to ensure that the concerns of local occupational therapy professionals and patients are addressed at the conference. Of specific note, there will be over 500 education sessions including a panel to discuss active duty and veterans health care and the important role of occupational therapy for returning our service men and women to maximum function and independence.

Madam Speaker, please join me in supporting April as occupational therapy month and applauding the work of occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants with our veterans, military personnel, and their families who deserve to receive the best care possible.

TRIBUTE TO RAHEEM CARTER

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2007

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a remarkable individual and policeman, Raheem Carter. After a bout with cancer, died this past Friday while serving in the New London Police Department within my constituency in Connecticut.

Mr. Carter was a leader in the Groton/New London community. Carter was the starting quarterback for three years at Fitch High School, and he also captained the track team. An extraordinary athlete, Carter set the career touchdown passing record in the Eastern Con-

necticut Conference. He shined as a field general, and in 1999, alongside his twin brother Rashaad, he led Fitch to its first championship in over 23 years.

Carter not only prospered on the field, but he surmounted obstacles off the field too. Despite growing up in a challenging neighborhood, Carter excelled in school, following the guidance of his mother who raised three children on her own. Carter attended Central Connecticut University until he received a full scholarship to attend the University of Rhode Island, where he graduated in 2005 with a bachelor's degree in sociology.

From there, Carter went on to attend Connecticut State Police Academy. It was there in December 2005 when a tumor was found in his abdomen. Due to his illness, Carter spent the majority of his first year as a police officer treating his cancer with chemotherapy. Known for his incredible strength, Carter was able to temporarily beat the disease securing enough time to train under New London Police Lt. Margaret Ackley.

Carter was known as a "gentle soul and courageous spirit" with "more heart for the job than anyone Lt. Ackley had ever seen." He was a leader throughout his community seen as "someone who cared more about others than about himself." Johnny L. Burns, pastor of his church, described him as "an exceptional man in every aspect of the word who in the 25 years he lived touched so many lives."

Today I would like to pay tribute to the life and legacy of Mr. Raheem Carter. He will be greatly missed by everyone whose lives he touched.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND
IDEALS OF FINANCIAL LITERACY
MONTH

SPEECH OF

HON. RUBÉN HINOJOSA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 16, 2007

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following letters regarding H. Res. 273, "Supporting the Goals and Ideals of Financial Literacy Month."

GIRLS INCORPORATED,

New York, NY, April 12, 2007.

Hon. RUBÉN HINOJOSA,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

Hon. JUDY BIGGERT,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE HINOJOSA AND REPRESENTATIVE BIGGERT: Girls Inc. is proud to join you in supporting H. Res. 273, and the ideals and goals of Financial Literacy Month. Financial education is critical to ensuring that individuals gain the skills necessary to assess financial opportunities and successfully manage their money. We applaud you for your leadership on this important bill.

Through our affiliates across the country, Girls Inc. teaches girls and their families important finance skills that help them to understand topics such as banking, saving, and investments, thus helping their future economic security, success, and well-being. We believe girls in particular benefit from opportunities to learn these essential skills. A survey we conducted in 1998 of teenage daughters and their mothers, found that the

number one concern of mothers was they would not have enough money at one point in their lives. Other surveys have shown that girls are less likely than boys to consider themselves "very knowledgeable or confident" about financial issues and money management. Economic and financial literacy is critical to helping girls plan for and achieve economic independence.

We thank you for your commitment to this issue and your understanding of the necessity of such a bill as H. Res. 273.

Sincerely,

JOYCE M. ROCHE,
President and CEO.

FIRST NATIONS OWEESTA CORPORATION,
Rapid City, SD, April 11, 2007.

Hon. RUBÉN HINOJOSA,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

Hon. JUDY BIGGERT,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVES HINOJOSA AND BIGGERT: The Native Financial Education Coalition (NFEC) and First Nations Oweesta Corporation (Oweesta) strongly support your efforts to officially designate April as "Financial Literacy Month". As the national voice advocating for stronger personal financial management skills among Native peoples, the NFEC urges Congress to pass the bipartisan H. Res. 273 as a step toward raising awareness and spurring action toward better financial education in Native communities across the country.

Native communities across the board are lacking in financial education skills, which directly relates to the poverty and other social ills that often define Native peoples in the eyes of others. For example, Native communities are a hotbed for predatory lenders because Native people do not have the skills or awareness to understand the financing and credit process sufficiently, and a large percentage of our families are among the unbanked. We do not, however, have to let this situation define us and our involvement in Financial Literacy Month over the years is one way of taking control of our own lives and moving towards economic sovereignty.

The NFEC and Oweesta believe so strongly in this issue that this month, on April 26th, we will host the 3rd Annual Native Financial Education Policy Briefing in Washington, DC for lawmakers, staffers, Native leaders and others interested in Native financial education. In the past we have intentionally held the Briefing in April to commemorate Financial Literacy Month and see a real benefit to making it officially recognized as such. We commend you for your leadership on this issue and look forward to continuing our work together to make financial education a reality for all Native communities.

Sincerely,

ELSIE MEEKS,
Executive Director, First Nations Oweesta Corporation, Chairperson, Native Financial Education Coalition.

NORTH AMERICAN SECURITIES
ADMINISTRATORS ASSOCIATION, INC.,
Washington, DC, April 6, 2007.

Hon. RUBÉN HINOJOSA,
Washington, DC.

Hon. JUDY BIGGERT,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN HINOJOSA AND CONGRESSWOMAN BIGGERT: On behalf of NASAA

thank you for introducing H. Res. 273, which supports the goals and ideals of Financial Literacy Month. State securities regulators have a long tradition of protecting investors through education, and most have established an investor education department within their regulatory agency. Several of NASAA's Investor Education Section's current activities include: personal finance, investor and fraud prevention education on military installations; empowering senior citizens to spot, stop and avoid financial scams and several initiatives designed to teach youth the value of sound investing principles. Whether offering students the opportunity to understand the workings of Wall Street through the InvestEd stock market game, sponsoring an essay contest on how investing can create financial independence in South Dakota, or reaching out to teens in New Jersey through a Consumer University that teaches investing, regulators are connecting with youth across the country.

As part of the effort to educate our nation's youth, in April, state securities division staffs will join in celebrating "Financial Literacy Month" by visiting schools throughout their state to teach students about personal finance, the capital markets, investment choices and fraud.

Reaching out to our young citizens is just one component of the ongoing financial education effort undertaken by state securities regulators. We are dedicated to improving financial literacy for our constituents of all ages, recognizing that financial education has a direct impact on the economic health of our families, communities, states and this country overall. This year NASAA will be launching a new investor education podcast series as part of Financial Literacy Month. The series, "The Alert Investor," is a resource for the public to learn about investing wisely, avoiding fraud and how to exercise their rights as investors.

We commend you for your continued efforts to draw attention to the importance of financial literacy programs, and NASAA looks forward to participating in Financial Literacy Day on Capitol Hill. Please contact Daphne Smith, Tennessee Securities Commissioner and Chair of NASAA's Investor Education Section, or Deborah House in NASAA's corporate office if we may be of further assistance to you. We look forward to continuing our work with you and your offices on this particular issue.

Sincerely,

JOSEPH P. BORG,
NASAA President,
Director, Alabama Securities Commission.

APRIL 13, 2007.

Hon. RUBÉN HINOJOSA,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

Hon. JUDY BIGGERT,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVES HINOJOSA AND BIGGERT: On behalf of Wells Fargo & Co., I am writing to express our strong support for H. Res. 273, a Resolution that raises awareness and support for financial literacy. Wells Fargo commends the leadership and determination that both of you have demonstrated as leaders of the financial literacy caucus.

Wells Fargo is committed to working with you in addressing the need for financial literacy for all Americans. Wells Fargo's financial literacy program, Hands on Banking® and El futuro en tus manos®, targets all age groups from elementary schools to adults. The program has been developed in collaboration with teachers and administrators across the country. The Department of Education in Texas, Utah and South Carolina has approved this program for school districts in their state. Wells Fargo has also partnered with various non-profit groups to put Hands on Banking and El futuro en tus manos into the hands of those who can benefit the most including: National Council of Economic Education, JumpStart Coalition, Navajo Nation in Arizona and the Mexican Consulates in Texas and California.

Wells Fargo believes the key to economic self-sufficiency is financial education. With this in mind, we are proud to express our support for H. Res 273 and look forward to continuing to team up with you and the House Financial and Economic Literacy Caucus to increase financial education throughout the United States.

Sincerely,

PAMELA ERWIN,
Senior Vice President,
Wells Fargo Foundation.

NATIONAL YOUTH
INVOLVEMENT BOARD,
Aurora, CO, April 16, 2007.

Hon. RUBÉN HINOJOSA,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

Hon. JUDY BIGGERT,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE HINOJOSA AND REPRESENTATIVE BIGGERT: The National Youth Involvement Board is grateful for your co-sponsorship of H. Res. 273, and we share with you the values upheld during Financial Literacy Month. You have been steadfast in leading a surge in attention to Americans' personal financial strength and the financial education each citizen deserves. As an organization that represents and consists of citizens from all walks of life, we proudly share your devotion.

The National Youth Involvement Board (NYIB) is a volunteer network of not-for-profit credit unions, affiliated organizations, and other enthusiasts committed to providing young people the financial fundamentals they need for a lifetime of success. Whether through youth-specific services, classroom presentations, or collaborative efforts with organizations like Junior Achievement Worldwide and the National Endowment for Financial Education, NYIB members have long demonstrated creativity and cooperation toward our common purpose.

We at the National Youth Involvement Board understand that visible national recognition of the need for personal financial literacy is essential to a promising future for America. Your efforts—specifically H. Res. 273—have created exactly that. Thank you!

Sincerely,

JOHN FARIES,
Chairman,
National Youth Involvement Board.

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF HIGHER
EDUCATION LOAN PROGRAMS,
Washington, DC, April 12, 2007.

Hon. RUBÉN HINOJOSA,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

Hon. JUDY BIGGERT,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVES HINOJOSA AND BIGGERT: On behalf of the members of the National Council of Higher Education Loan Programs (NCHELP). I am writing to enthusiastically support House Resolution 273. Our members help millions of students fund higher education each year. We agree with you that it is more important than ever that students and their families have the information and tools necessary to make good financial decisions.

NCHELP members support and share the goal of House Resolution 273 to increase financial literacy among all Americans and to raise public awareness about the importance of a sound financial education. Our members provide information and training to college-bound students all around the country on topics like managing credit and checking accounts, basic credit and budgeting concepts, and personal financial management, better preparing these students to make good financial decisions and borrow responsibly. Materials are made available in Spanish and other languages where needed to ensure all Americans receive this important information on college access and financial literacy. Our members also partner with organizations like the JumpStart Coalition, Junior Achievement and 360 Degrees of Financial Literacy to promote financial education to middle and high school students.

I thank you both for your continued leadership of the Financial and Economic Literacy Caucus and pledge that the members of NCHELP stand ready to assist you and your colleagues in this important endeavor.

Sincerely,

BRETT E. LIEF,
President.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2007

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Madam Speaker, I was not present for several votes on April 17. I would have voted:

Rollcall No. 216 on H. Con. Res. 100, condemning actions of the Government of Zimbabwe, I would have voted "yea."

Rollcall No. 217 on H. Res. 273, Financial Literacy Month, I would have voted "yea."

Rollcall No. 218 on H. Con. Res. 76, International Geophysical Year, I would have voted "yea."

HAILING THE PATRIOTIC SERVICE OF THE CONGRESSIONAL YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2007

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, last fall roughly 100 high school students applied to serve on the Third Congress-

sional District's Congressional Youth Advisory Council. A panel of community leaders nominated 43 high school students attending public, private and home schools based on academic achievement, community service, student leadership, outside interests, and the application essay. These 43 have done an outstanding job serving as the voice of their generation. I fondly call this distinguished group "young ambassadors to Congress."

Civil service among young adults remains the cornerstone of our future. These dynamic students are leaders of their peers and achievers in and out of the classroom. They are the future of America and hold tremendous promise. They sacrificed their time to boldly share their hopes and their dreams for our Nation. They should be proud of their commitment and commended for their work.

This year, the members of the CYAC wrote a patriotic essay detailing, "My dream for America" or "The cost of freedom." The country and the Congress must know that high school students in North Texas firmly believe in this mighty Nation and express great optimism for the future. I gladly entrust it to them—the leaders of tomorrow. Their names are listed forever in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. Their country needs them to stand up, speak out, and continue to make a difference in their communities. They are the young leaders who help make America great. God bless you, God bless Texas and God bless America.

Freshmen: James "Wil" Callison and Ian Webber.

Sophomores: John Lipscomb, Evan Rosenfield, Sharan Shetty, and Melissa Stepczyk.

Juniors: Caroline Alvarez, Morgan Bailey, Anna Bashmakov, Susie Choi, Abigail Dekle, Patrick Dyer, John Hollingsworth, Emily Kaufman, Kristy Luk, James MacGibbon, Charlie Manion, Meredith Morgan, Jason Palmatary, David Paxman, Andrew Pedigo, Nirjhor Rahman, and Spencer Wood.

Seniors: Lynzee Benoit, Yoojin Cho, Alyssa DeLorenz, Erik De Sousa, Andrew Graham, Luke Gunderson, Kelli Lafferty, Amanda Lipscomb, David Michael McCleary, Brendan O'Kelly, Benjamin Oppenheim, Rachel Reichenbach, Catherine Russell, Elizabeth Sanford, Jordan Schmittou, Hannah Sedlet, Hansini Sharma, Jennifer Smart, Britney Thomas, and Evan Wise.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO SANDRA LEE THOMPSON

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the late Sandra Lee Thompson for her commitment and dedication to the Las Vegas community and being selected by the Clark County School Board to have an elementary school named in her honor.

Sandra Lee Thompson was born in Hanover, Pennsylvania in 1948 and was one of six children. She attended DeLone Catholic High School and then graduated from Pennsylvania State University with a degree in Social Work. She began her career as a reporter in Connecticut, where she met her husband Gary

Thompson in 1973. The couple had one daughter, Kelly, who was the pride and joy of her parents. In 1978, Sandra and her husband moved to Las Vegas and began a long career with the Las Vegas Sun Newspaper. Sandra started out working as a copy and features editor and eventually became managing editor. In 1997, she was promoted to Vice President/Associate Editor for the Las Vegas Sun.

While working for the Las Vegas Sun, Sandra was able to incorporate her love for children into her job. She held hands-on workshops for local high school students at the Sun Youth Forum and she routinely lectured in schools around the valley to educate youth on the field of journalism. Sandra spent the last five years of her career focusing on issues relating to children and families. She was the only journalist in the state to write regularly about children and family issues. Her unwavering commitment to families earned her a reputation for being "the voice of the children" in Nevada. Sandra's efforts to draw attention to important family issues led to legislative changes in child welfare programs and an increase in the cap on child support payments.

Sandra's commitment to children and the family permeated her life. She was truly dedicated to improving the lives of children and youth. In addition to her professional commitment to these issues, she was actively involved in a variety of community organizations and service projects. She focused much of her time in Clark County mentoring students and encouraging them to succeed. She actively participated in projects such as the Las Vegas Sun Camp Fund, Christmas in April, Children's Advocacy Alliance, Clark County Family Court, Raising Nevada and Class! Publications. Additionally, her leadership on the subject of children and family inspired the creation of a scholarship program for Class! Publications and the Mother of the Year Contest.

On August 9th, 2002, Sandra tragically died in an automobile accident. She left a lasting legacy of compassion, service and devotion to children. Her leadership and her steadfast commitment to enriching the lives of others have truly made a difference in Southern Nevada.

Madam Speaker, it is a privilege to honor Sandra Lee Thompson for her profound commitment to children and the family. I am proud that the Clark County School District has chosen to recognize her outstanding contribution to Clark County by naming the Sandra Thompson Elementary School in her honor. I wish the Thompson family and the students, teachers, and administrators at Thompson Elementary the very best as they celebrate the dedication of this special school. I am certain that this educational establishment will live up to the legacy Sandra Thompson has left behind.

HONORING THE MIDDLE COUNTRY PUBLIC LIBRARY

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2007

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a respected and important landmark in the First Congressional District, the Middle Country Public Library.

Since 1957, the Middle Country Public Library has been a dynamic center for continuous learning that provides information, resources and programs to meet the needs of our diverse Long Island population. Visionary leadership, outstanding facilities, a skilled staff and collaborative partnerships enable the Library to deliver model services including free and spacious meeting rooms for use by community groups.

The Middle Country Public Library has received numerous awards including the "Pioneer Vision Award", "The Godfrey Award for Excellence in Public Library Services for Children and Families", and the "Groundbreaker Award" for promoting diversity and cultural awareness. On Saturday, April 21, the Library will be celebrating its 50th anniversary. The celebration will include performances, puppet shows, and stories to commemorate five full decades of stellar service and commitment to the community.

Madam Speaker, I strongly agree with John Quincy Adams, this great country's 6th President, when he said, "To furnish the means of acquiring knowledge is the greatest benefit that can be conferred upon mankind." Indeed, the Middle Country Public Library is a welcoming place for knowledge, dedicated to excellence and to enhancing the quality of life in Suffolk County, New York. I am proud to honor its 50th anniversary.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. NAOMI A.
ADAMS

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2007

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor one of Miami's great ladies, Mrs. Naomi A. Adams, who on April 19, 2007, will celebrate her 90th birthday. I know I speak for all of my colleagues in extending to her our congratulations and best wishes on this important occasion.

In so many ways, Mrs. Adams exemplifies determination, strength and service. She grew up in a segregated Southern city and was educated in a segregated school system. However, she overcame adversity, and thrived in every facet of her life.

Determined to develop her talents and make the most of her abilities, Mrs. Adams was admitted into the prestigious Tuskegee Institute, which was and still is one of the premier institutions of higher learning in the nation. She worked in campus jobs in the dining hall and in the registrar's office to help make ends meet.

It was at Tuskegee that two very important events occurred: Mrs. Adams studied under the instruction of Dr. George Washington Carver, a distinguished American of genius, and she met Mr. Nelson L. Adams, Jr., the man who would later become her husband.

Mrs. Adams graduated in 1940 with a degree in Home Economics, and when the couple moved to Miami, she put her knowledge to good use by teaching others. She taught home economics and science for more than twenty years at Miami's George Washington Carver High School. When the Dade County Public Schools were desegregated in 1966, she was transferred to Robert E. Lee, Jr. High

School, where she worked until her retirement in 1977. Mr. Adams, also an educator, was principal of Dunbar Elementary School for nearly 25 years.

Mrs. Adams and her late husband had an overwhelming commitment of faith to St. John Baptist Church in Overtown. She has served as a Girl Scout troop leader; as a volunteer with the American Red Cross; as a member of the board of directors of the Dade County Teachers Credit Union and on the board of directors of the Dade County Retired Teachers Association. Even today, she is an active member of the Optimist Club, AARP, the Tuskegee Alumni Association and the Tuskegee University's Presidential Associates Club.

Mrs. Adams is the mother of two children, Sceiva and Nelson, III, the grandmother of five and the great-grandmother of two. Mrs. Adams is the embodiment of the ultimate matriarchal figure, and I wish her continued happiness as she celebrates her 90th birthday.

IN RECOGNITION OF PEACE
ACTION'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2007

Mr. STARK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Peace Action's 50th anniversary. Peace Action has been a seminal part of the peace movement. On the evening of April 12, 2007 at Madison's Lake Merritt Hotel in Oakland, California, Peace Action West, a regional organization of Peace Action, will celebrate their work during the last 50 years as well as their recent victories.

The evening celebration will include reminiscences by Peace Activist Norman Cousins' daughters, Candis Cousins and Shigeko Sasori. Norman Cousins was an eminent activist and founder of SANE. As a child, Shigeko survived the Hiroshima atomic blast, and soon after was unofficially adopted by the Cousins family. From her experience at the very center and origin of the nonproliferation movement, her lifetime of peace activism is an inspiration to us all. Together they will speak to the memory of their father's work and ideals, which I find new expression in this generation of peace organizers.

In 1957, motivated by the realization that nuclear weapons could put an end to human life on the planet, the National Committee for a Sane Nuclear Policy was born. SANE, as the organization came to be known, later merged with the Nuclear Freeze movement and became Peace Action. For 50 years Peace Action has galvanized a voice for a world where the threat of nuclear weapons is eliminated and where foreign policy is based on international cooperation and respect for human rights. Peace Action has grown into a regional organization nearly 50,000 members strong.

I join the community in celebrating Peace Action's 50-year milestone of waging peace. I thank the members of Peace Action West for their exemplary efforts and deep commitment to peace and human rights and I applaud their five decades of accomplishments.

HONORING ROD GRUSY

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2007

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dr. Rod Grusy, a remarkable public servant and friend from my home state of Kentucky. Dr. Grusy recently announced his intention to retire from his position as Extension Service Agent at the Hardin County Agricultural Extension Office at the end of this month.

Dr. Grusy has distinguished himself as an ardent educator and trusted advisor to the communities of Hardin County, Kentucky throughout his 16 year tenure. He has been consistently praised for his unique hands on approach, routinely visiting local farms in person to offer his advice.

Dr. Grusy is the only Extension agent in Kentucky at the county level specializing in crop production and farm management. His extensive education and keen intuition developed over many years spent in the fields have made him a valuable resource to countless farmers and students throughout the Commonwealth.

One of Dr. Grusy's most important contributions to Kentucky agriculture is his work to organize the annual Central Kentucky Farm Expo. Each year, the popular event teaches farmers about new technology and innovations in their rapidly changing industry. The Expo also teaches schoolchildren about farming, inspiring future careers and building a deeper understanding between rural and non-rural residents.

On behalf of the countless men and women who have benefited from his skill and generosity, I would like to express my profound appreciation to Dr. Grusy for his years of service and wish him a very happy and healthy retirement.

It is my great privilege to recognize Dr. Rod Grusy today, before the entire U.S. House of Representatives, for his exemplary citizenship and community leadership. His unique contributions to farming and education make him an outstanding American, worthy of our collective honor and appreciation.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE TIME
TRAVELERS HISTORY CLUB AT
CHARLES R. DREW MIDDLE
SCHOOL IN LINCOLN, ALABAMA

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2007

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize today the students and adult leaders of the Time Travelers History Club at Charles R. Drew Middle School in Lincoln, Alabama.

Since 2005, the Time Travelers club has taken a significant role in enhancing learning opportunities for students, preserving local history, and serving the community. Their events, such as a Constitution Day celebration, have joined students with community figures and in turn allowed students to learn more about history through interacting with people who lived

through some of the most influential events of the twentieth century.

I applaud the students of Charles R. Drew Middle School who have participated in this program, as well as their advisor Mr. Keith George, for their commitment to learning and service. Thank you, Madam Speaker, for the House's attention to these accomplished individuals today.

TRIBUTE TO COACH FISHER
DEBERRY

HON. DOUG LAMBORN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2007

Mr. LAMBORN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Fisher DeBerry, former head coach of the United States Air Force Academy football team. During his twenty three years as head coach at the Academy, Mr. DeBerry led seventeen teams to winning seasons and twelve to bowl games; his career record of 169–107–1 is the best in Academy history. Off the field, Mr. DeBerry has made tremendous contributions to his community through the Fisher DeBerry Foundation, an organization dedicated supporting single mothers and their children by providing mentoring and after school programs and funding academic scholarships.

A high school and college athlete, Mr. DeBerry began his coaching career in 1969 as an assistant coach at his alma mater, Wofford College in Spartanburg, South Carolina. In 1971 he joined the coaching staff at Appalachian State. As a result of his success at these two institutions, Mr. DeBerry was hired as offensive coordinator and quarterback coach by the Air Force Academy in 1980 and moved on to the head coach position four years later. Dominating the Commander in Chiefs Trophy Series since its inception in 1972, Mr. DeBerry holds, against the Naval and Military Academies, a combined record of 34–8 and is the winningest coach in the history of the service academies.

Mr. DeBerry, a member of the South Carolina and Colorado Springs Sports Halls of Fame, holds numerous other awards and distinctions including three-time WAC Coach of the Year, the 1985 Paul "Bear" Bryant award as NCAA College Football Coach of the Year and the 2001 State Farm Coach of Distinction.

A man of deep Christian faith and profound humility, Mr. DeBerry has participated in fundraising efforts for worthy causes including March of Dimes, the Salvation Army, and the American Heart Association. I wish to recognize Mr. DeBerry today not only for his impressive coaching career which has brought tremendous pride to the Air Force Academy and Colorado Springs, but also for his strength of character and community service.

A TRIBUTE TO ODELLE
WHITEHEAD BARNES

HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2007

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to pay tribute

to Mrs. Odelle Whitehead Barnes, a native and longtime resident of Wilson, North Carolina. This wonderful individual is a family friend and a former teacher at my alma mater, The Charles H. Darden High School. For many years, Mrs. Barnes dedicated her life to educating and serving the people of Wilson, North Carolina. She is being honored this week upon her designation as a Diamond Soror in Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, and for her years of service to the community.

Madam Speaker, Mrs. Barnes committed 39 years of her life as both a teacher and speech therapist, and many more as a beacon of positive light to the community. She should be lauded even greater for her success in overcoming the racial and gender prejudices of her time. Mrs. Odelle Barnes was born in Wilson, North Carolina, as one of 12 children to Henry and Victoria Whitehead. She faced numerous challenges growing up in the Jim Crow South during the Depression, but excelled nonetheless, graduating from high school at age 16. Mrs. Barnes attended North Carolina College at Durham, today North Carolina Central University, and graduated with high honors in both English and French. Although the college environment during the Depression was unfriendly, nevertheless she persevered with the help of her family, the determination of her own character and her faith in Almighty God.

Mrs. Barnes taught for many years at both Elm City Elementary and Darden High School, before earning her Masters in Speech Therapy with the University of Michigan. In a time when integration still ruled North Carolina, Mrs. Barnes provided an invaluable service to the African-American community of Wilson County with her work as a Speech Therapist in the school system. In 1977, Darden High School named her "Alumna of the Year," and in 1981 she was honored by the Wilson Human Relations Commission with its "Citizen Award."

Madam Speaker, Odelle Whitehead Barnes is very proud of her distinction of being "Charter Member" of two chapters of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., the Alpha Chi Chapter in 1932 and of the Gamma Beta Omega Chapter in 1940. She is now a Diamond Soror and has spent 75 years as an AKA member. Mrs. Barnes is a lifelong member of the Jackson Chapel First Missionary Baptist Church, where she has served as the president of the Missionary Circle and co-founder of the Fellowship Club, and has twice been named church "Woman of the Year." Additionally, she served as board member for the Department of Social Services, the Wilson Historic Properties Commission, and Wilson County Mental Health Board. She volunteered at the Wilson Crisis Center, the Hospital Visitation Program and the Wilson County Board of Elections.

Mrs. Barnes, who was married to Edward Morrison Barnes for 65 years, presently resides in Detroit, Michigan, with her daughter, Carolyn, her two grandsons and five great-grandchildren. Madam Speaker, in honor and recognition of Mrs. Odelle Whitehead Barnes' diligent service as an educator, therapist, and leader, I ask my Colleagues to join me in paying tribute to this great woman.

IN HONOR OF JIM JONTZ

HON. BRAD ELLSWORTH

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2007

Mr. ELLSWORTH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of former Congressman James Prather "Jim" Jontz, who passed away on April 14, 2007 after a long battle with colon cancer. Jim dedicated his life to public service and environmental protection.

In 1974, at the age of 22, he was one of the youngest people ever to be elected to the Indiana General Assembly. After 10 years in the General Assembly and 2 in the Indiana Senate, Jontz ran for the U.S. House of Representatives from Indiana's 5th District. He went on to serve three terms in the House where he fought for government accountability and preservation of the environment. After leaving Congress, Jontz moved to Oregon where he continued his advocacy for environmental causes.

Jim Jontz was the kind of man that got into politics for the right reason: he saw a problem in his community and decided he could make a difference. He will be remembered for his strong conviction, his populist spirit, and his unwavering commitment to protecting the environment. I want to send my condolences to his family. He was a great public servant to the State of Indiana and our Nation.

REVEREND DOCTOR WILLIE RAY
DAVIS FOR HIS INSTALLATION
AS PASTOR OF PROGRESSIVE
BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2007

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Rev. Dr. Willie Ray Davis on his installation as Pastor of Progressive Baptist Church. On behalf of the constituents of the Eighteenth Congressional District of Texas, I would like to extend to him my warmest congratulations on the commemoration of his Official Installation as Pastor of Progressive Baptist Church. As former pastor of Greater St. Paul's Missionary Baptist Church, his presence in Houston, the fourth largest city in the United States, and before the enthusiastic new members of the Progressive Baptist Church assembled today, serves as a testimony of his renowned commitment to excellence and eminence as one of Houston's foremost religious and community figures.

How do you describe a man who is known as a pastor, spiritual leader, and extraordinary community leader? You can do so by simply calling him Pastor Willie Ray Davis. Pastor Davis's commitment to serving his community is exemplified by the many committees that he is involved in and his ability to put the needs of others before his own. Consequently, I would like to join his family, friends and church members in congratulating him on your Installation as Pastor of the Progressive Baptist Church in Chicago, Illinois.

Houston and Greater St. Paul's Baptist Church has lost one of its beloved treasures, but I am confident that Pastor Willie Ray Davis

will exhibit the same profound preeminence that he exhibited in Houston in Illinois to the members of the Progressive Baptist Church. My wish is that on this momentous occasion, Pastor Davis will look at what a blessing his

life has been to others and that he will continue on with his good work blessing his community, congregation, family and friends.

Madam Speaker, I would like to congratulate Pastor Willie Ray Davis as he celebrates this wonderful occasion with his family, church

members and friends. He has been a pillar of faith in his community and I extend my heartfelt wishes and prayers for a wonderful tenure as Pastor of Progressive Baptist Church.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, April 17, 2007 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

APRIL 18

Time to be announced

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Business meeting to consider the nomination of Gregory B. Cade, of Virginia, to be Administrator of the United States Fire Administration, Department of Homeland Security.

S-216, Capitol

9:30 a.m.

Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

To hold hearings to examine economic challenges and opportunities facing American agricultural producers today, focusing on livestock, poultry and competition issues.

SD-106

Armed Services

Airland Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine whether the Army is properly sized, organized, and equipped to respond to the most likely missions over the next two decades while retaining adequate capability to respond to all contingencies along the spectrum of combat in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2008 and the Future Years Defense Program.

SR-222

10 a.m.

Finance

To hold hearings to examine the Administration's plan for reducing the tax gap, focusing on goals, benchmarks, and timetables.

SD-215

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

Business meeting to markup S. 1082, to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to reauthorize and amend the prescription drug user fee provisions, and the nominations of Douglas G. Myers, of California, Jeffrey Patchen, of Indiana, Lotsee Patterson, of Oklahoma, all to be Members of the National Museum and Library Services Board, Stephen W. Porter, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the National Council on the Arts, and Cynthia Allen Wainscott, of Georgia, to be a Member of the National Council on Disability.

SH-216

Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Interstate Commerce, Trade, and Tourism
Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine if "Free Trade" is working.

SR-253

Rules and Administration

To hold hearings to examine repealing the limitation on party expenditures on behalf of candidates in general elections.

SR-301

Small Business and Entrepreneurship

To hold hearings to examine Public Law 107-204 (Sarbanes Oxley Act) and small business addressing proposed regulatory changes and their impact on capital markets.

SR-428A

Appropriations

State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2008 for maternal and child health, and family planning and reproductive health.

SD-124

Veterans' Affairs

Business meeting to markup the nomination of Thomas E. Harvey, of New York, to be an Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs (Congressional Affairs).

Room to be announced

2:15 p.m.

Library

Organizational business meeting to consider an original resolution authorizing expenditures for committee operations and committee's rules of procedure for the 110th Congress.

S-115, Capitol

2:30 p.m.

Appropriations

Energy and Water Development Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2008 for the Department of Energy.

SD-138

Environment and Public Works

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Lieutenant General Robert L. Van Antwerp, Jr. to be Chief of Engineers and Commanding General of the United States Army Corps of Engineers.

SD-406

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Oceans, Atmosphere, Fisheries, and Coast Guard Subcommittee

To hold oversight hearings to examine the President's budget request for fiscal year 2008 for the United States Coast Guard.

SR-253

Printing

Organizational business meeting to consider an original resolution authorizing expenditures for committee operations and committee's rules of procedure for the 110th Congress.

S-115, Capitol

3 p.m.

Armed Services

Readiness and Management Support Subcommittee

Personnel Subcommittee

To hold joint hearings to examine the readiness impact of quality of life and family support programs to assist families of Active Duty, National Guard, and Reserve military personnel in review of the Defense Authorization Request for Fiscal Year 2008 and the Future Years Defense Program.

SR-232A

9:30 p.m.

Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of R. Niels Marquardt, of California, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Madagascar, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador to the Union of Comoros, Janet E. Garvey, of Massachusetts, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Cameroon, and Phillip Carter, III, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Guinea.

SD-419

APRIL 19

9 a.m.

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the impact of global warming on private and federal insurance.

SD-342

9:30 a.m.

Armed Services

To hold hearings to receive testimony on the Department of Defense's management of costs under the Logistics Civil Augmentation Program (LOGCAP) contract in Iraq.

SD-106

Judiciary

To hold oversight hearings to examine the Department of Justice.

SH-216

10 a.m.

Appropriations

Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2008 for the Department of Justice.

SD-192

Finance

To hold hearings to examine grains, cane, and automobiles relating to tax incentives for alternative fuels and vehicles.

SD-215

Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine S. 1079, to establish the Star-Spangled Banner and War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission, S. 495, to prevent and mitigate identity theft, to ensure privacy, to provide notice of security breaches, and to enhance criminal penalties, law enforcement assistance, and other protections against security breaches, fraudulent access, and misuse of personally identifiable information, S. 221, to amend title 9, United States Code, to provide for greater fairness in the arbitration process relating to livestock and poultry contracts, S. 495, to prevent and mitigate identity theft, to ensure privacy, to provide notice of security breaches, and to enhance criminal penalties, law enforcement assistance, and other protections against security breaches, fraudulent access, and misuse of personally identifiable information, S. 376, to amend title 18, United States Code, to improve the provisions relating to the carrying of concealed weapons by law enforcement officers, S. 119, to prohibit profiteering and fraud relating to military action, relief, and reconstruction efforts, S. 735, to amend title 18, United States Code, to improve the terrorist hoax statute, H.R. 740, to amend title 18, United States Code, to prevent caller ID spoofing, and the nominations of Robert Gideon Howard, Jr., of Arkansas, to be United States Marshal for the Eastern District of Arkansas, Frederick J. Kapala, of Illinois, to be

United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois, and Benjamin Hale Settle, of Washington, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Washington; and the possibility of the issuance of certain subpoenas in connection with the investigation into the replacement of United States Attorneys.

SD-226

Appropriations

Military Construction and Veterans' Affairs, and Related Agencies Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2008 for military construction for the Army, Navy, and Marine Corps.

SD-138

Commerce, Science, and Transportation Science, Technology, and Innovation Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine United States competitiveness through basic research.

SR-253

Appropriations

Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine rising highway fatalities.

SD-124

2 p.m.

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Federal Financial Management, Government Information, Federal Services, and International Security Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the current state of the Postal Service along with the efforts underway to implement the Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act (Public Law 109-435).

SD-342

2:30 p.m.

Armed Services

Strategic Forces Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2008 for the military space programs in review of the Defense Authorization Request and the Future Years Defense Program; with the possibility of a closed session in SR-222 following the open session.

SR-232A

Intelligence

To receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters.

S-407, Capitol

10 p.m.

Aging

To hold hearings to examine bioidentical hormones.

SD-562

APRIL 20

9:30 a.m.

Appropriations

Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2008 for

the National Institutes of Health, focusing on the burden of chronic diseases.

SD-116

APRIL 23

3 p.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine S. 1115, to promote the efficient use of oil, natural gas, and electricity, reduce oil consumption, and heighten energy efficiency standards for consumer products and industrial equipment.

SD-366

APRIL 24

9:30 a.m.

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Disaster Recovery Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine trailers, focusing on creating more flexible, efficient, and cost-effective Federal Disaster Housing Program.

SD-342

Armed Services

To hold hearings to receive testimony on United States Pacific Command, United States Forces Korea, and United States Special Operations Command in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2008 and the Futures Years Defense Program.

SH-216

10 a.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine communications, broadband and competitiveness relating to how the United States measures up.

SR-253

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine No Child Left Behind Reauthorization, focusing on modernizing middle and high schools for the twenty-first century.

SD-628

Judiciary

Human Rights and the Law Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine the casualties of war focusing on child soldiers and the law.

SD-226

2:30 p.m.

Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine the Insurrection Act rider and the state control of the National Guard.

SD-226

APRIL 25

2 p.m.

Armed Services

Emerging Threats and Capabilities Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine language technology and training for the Department of Defense.

SR-325

Veterans' Affairs

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Department of Veterans Affairs, focusing on mental health issues.

SR-418

2:30 p.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Business meeting to consider pending calendar business.

SR-253

APRIL 26

9:30 a.m.

Armed Services

To hold hearings to receive testimony on legal issues regarding individuals detained by the Department of Defense as unlawful enemy combatants.

SH-216

10 a.m.

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
Employment and Workplace Safety Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine if the Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA) is working for working people.

SD-628

Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Science, Technology, and Innovation Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine clean coal technology.

SR-253

2:30 p.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Consumer Affairs, Insurance, and Automotive Safety Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV) safety.

SR-253

MAY 3

2:30 p.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation
To hold hearings to examine pending nominations.

SR-253

MAY 9

9:30 a.m.

Veterans' Affairs

To hold hearings to examine on benefits legislation.

SD-562

MAY 16

10 a.m.

Veterans' Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Michael K. Kussman, of Massachusetts, to be Under Secretary for Health of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

SD-562

MAY 23

9:30 a.m.

Veterans' Affairs

To hold hearings to examine on health legislation.

SD-562